WORLD / A19
Prince Charles complains phone being tapped; British police probe tabloid editor

LIFESTYLE / C1
Cooking school right where freshest ingredients are on sale

NEWS / A16
GMA names career diplomat Willy Gaa ambassador to US

ACROSS / A13
Chavit Singson reportedly behind the takeover of Poro Point port

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

...rsday, August 10, 2006 ★★ 4 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 243 P18 ...inq7.net

'3rd party' steals thunder from 'Juan' and 'Inday'

By Norman Bordadora

A RARE THING HAS HAPPENED WITH PAGASA reporting yesterday the presence of two weather disturbances—typhoon "Juan" and tropical storm "Inday"—north of Luzon and well within the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR).

It was the first time since 1988 ...

SEE PAGE A6

No Viagra for Indian, 88, in land of Kama Sutra

NEW DELHI—AN 88-YEAR-old Indian farmer, who has never heard of Viagra, recently became the father of a baby boy.

In fact, Virnarain Jat has sex daily and wants more kids. The Times of India reported.

NO VIAGRA! A2

PIETA: Like a rag doll, the body of a toddler is removed by a Lebanese rescue worker from the wreckage of a building in a residential neighborhood in Beirut.

NPA attacks Mayon troops

Grenade explosions injure 5 soldiers

By Dolly T. Mallari Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

THUNDEROUS EXPLOSIONS GREETED ARMY SOLDIERS in Daraga, Albay, on Tuesday while they were packing relief goods for thousands of residents who evacuated from the slopes of the rumbling Mayon Volcano.

The explosions at about 8:20 p.m. came not from the volcano but from rocket-propelled grenades fired by some 20 New People's Army guerrillas.

The NPA observed a de facto ceasefire in the region earlier this year when the Bulusan Volcano in the neighboring province of Sorsogon expelled ash clouds that triggered a brief evacuation of nearby villages.

No ceasefire is in place around Mayon.

The attack appears to be part of the stepped-up campaign of the NPA, armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, against the military in the Bicol region.

The attack on the 901st Infantry Brigade headquarters in Barangay Villarreyna wounded five soldiers, according to Maj. Gen. Alexander Yano, chief of the Southern Luzon Command (Solcom) based in Camp Nakar in Lucena City.

"The rebel group came from the Sorsogon side and fired an M-203 40mm grenade launcher," said battalion commander Brig. Gen. Arnesto Arugay.

Arugay said that at the time of the attack, most of the soldiers were out of the

NPA ATTACKS A3

3 out of 10 Filipinos want to leave RP

By Kate V. Pedroso
Inquirer Research

THREE OUT OF EVERY 10 FILIPINO adults, or around 14 million, will emigrate today if it was possible for them, as levels of public hopefulness amid uncertain times have dropped to their lowest at 49 percent since July 2002, according to the latest nationwide survey of Pulse Asia Inc.

While 32 percent of the respondents said they were unsure of migrating, they did not rule out the

3 OUT OF 10 A5

Israel orders expansion of ground war in Lebanon

JERUSALEM—ISRAELS SECURITY CABINET YESTERDAY ORDERED AN EXPANDED ground offensive in Lebanon aimed at striking a harder blow against Hezbollah and curbing its cross-border rocket attacks, the prime minister's office said.

The decision by Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and top ministers to send troops deeper into Lebanon, possibly as far as the Litani River, up to 20 km north of the border, would bring a major escalation despite UN diplomacy to end the war.

It came after Israel shut down road traffic in south Lebanon, declaring a restrictive zone below the Litani River and threatening to blast any moving vehicle as a guerrilla target.

Only pedestrians ventured into the streets of Tyre and country roads and highways were deserted throughout the region on Tuesday as Israel moved to inflict damage on Hezbollah as much as possible before a ceasefire takes hold.

A vote on a UN resolution to end the war, triggered by Hezbollah's seizure of two soldiers in a July 12 cross-border raid, may not take place before Thursday because of wrangling.

On the 26th day of the war, ground fighting intensified across the south Lebanon front, and at least 39 Lebanese civilians died in air strikes. Rescuers pulled 28 additional corpses from the wreckage of attacks the day before, raising the death toll to 77. Lebanese killed Monday the highest since the war began.

Israel reported five soldiers killed Tuesday but no civilians.

At least one Palestinian also was killed when Lebanon's largest refugee camp was struck by Israeli gunboat shells early Wednesday, Lebanese and Palestinian of-

ISRAEL A6

'Magic 7' and how bombing 'saves' 4 OFWs

By Nikko Dizon

A BOMB EXPLOSION PROVED TO BE A sort of a life saver for four young Filipino women fleeing Lebanon.

Shirley Yap, Joahnna Rose Asis, Gina Amaral and a certain Maribel were held at the Lebanese-Syrian frontier on Saturday after their employers accused them of ...

...ging on their contracts of employing and committing theft—charges they denied.

"The Lebanese soldiers at the border immigration told us they have to send us back to Beirut," Asis, 28, told the reporters.

The four women were questioned individually and after an hour were told that they would be sent back to Tripoli where they would be detained for two days and then to Beirut, said Yap, 25.

Asis recounted in Filipino that she

MAGIC 7! A8

LIFE IN AN EVACUATION CENTER: Families are now housed in 15 evacuation centers, mostly public schools with about 20 people per classroom. A total of 19,178 people from villages surrounding the picturesque Mayon Volcano have been safely evacuated from the danger zone after a two-day operation by the military and local officials.

'8th impeach rap is sufficient in form'

By Philip C. Tubeza and Michael Lim Ubac

WITH A UNANIMOUS VOTE, THE MEMbers of the House committee on justice ruled last night that the eighth impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo was sufficient in form.

The complaint, the only one remaining among the eight impeachment complaints, will face the next and last test on sufficiency of substance during the resumption of the impeachment hearing on Tuesday.

It was filed by the Black and White Movement and subsequently endorsed by Tarlac Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III and other Liberal Party lawmakers on July 27.

"There's a motion declaring the complaint as sufficient in form. Any objection? The chair hears none, so the motion is granted," declared Rep. Roseller Barinaga, the committee chair, as he banged the gavel at 6:13 p.m.

The vote ended five hours of nonstop debate on procedures.

The committee also firmly shut the door on calls that 37 minority and majority lawmakers linked to the P728-million fertilizer fund scam be inhibited from taking part in the impeachment hearings.

8TH IMPEACH A2

After snubs, GMA execs attend in full force Senate hearing

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

AFTER SNUBBING PREVIOUS SENATE hearings, members of President Macapagal-Arroyo's Cabinet attended in full force yesterday's hearing of the Senate finance committee on Malacañang's request for a P46.9-billion supplemental budget for 2006 and a P500-million standby fund for the evacuation of Filipinos from Lebanon.

The irony was not lost on senators, who are gearing up for a new battle with Malacañang over the non-appearance of officials in three Senate hearings over the past two weeks on account of Executive Order No. 464.

The order prevents officials of the ex-

AFTER A6

THEY SNUBBED the Senate hearings on the state of the Owwa funds but yesterday the President's men came in full force for the budget hearings. From left, MRT 3 Assistant Secretary Roberto Lastimosa, DSWD Undersecretary Alicia Bala, Owwa Director Albert Valenciano, Labor Undersecretary Manuel Imson, Education Secretary Jesli Lapus, Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya, Finance Undersecretary Gil Beltran, Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz and OAR Secretary Nasser Pangandaman.

WEATHER FORECAST

CEBU (AP) – Workers' unions in Central Visayas, Southern Luzon, Caraga and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming tropical rains over the provinces and cities of Southern Luzon and Visayas. The rest of Luzon will have cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

Second FRONTPAGE

Fate of nursing hopefuls hangs

By Alcuin Papa

PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY COMMISSION (PRC) Chair Leonor Tripon-Rosero denied yesterday there was any cover-up in the investigation into alleged leakage in the last nursing board exams.

In an interview, Rosero also said the PRC will meet with nursing deans on Aug. 23 to decide if the Aug. 23 oath-taking for nurses who passed the last board exam will push through, or if there will be a retake of the exam after allegations of a leakage surfaced.

Rosero also confirmed that they did not attend the Senate inquiry into the leakage the other day based on Executive Order No. 464. However, she said they are ready to explain to the Senate their reasons for snubbing the inquiry.

On allegations leaked by lawyer Cheryl Ibanez-Tangco, a counsel for a nursing student who lodged a complaint on the leakage before the PRC is ensuring up the incident, Rosero said "that's her opinion."

"It's good that the BON was heard. If we were there, we would have explained what we have done on the incident and how we are now holding anything," Rosero said.

On the Aug. 15 meeting, Rosero said she and other PRC officials will explain to the nursing deans the reasons they adopted in the computation of the last exam.

Once the meeting is concluded, Rosero said the PRC would decide on whether to push through with the oath-taking or order a retake of the exam based on the comments from the deans.

"We will meet with around 400 deans and we will show and explain to them our system. Hopefully, they will understand our position," Rosero said.

But even now, Rosero said she was not inclined to order a retake of the last nursing board exams. "If you passed the exam, would you like to retake it again? It is unfair to those who did not have fit from the leakage."

She stressed that the PRC had conducted its own inquiry into the alleged leakage. The inquiry led to the filing of administrative cases against two members of the Board of Nursing, the body which formulates the questions for the board exam. The two were identified as Amelia Bautista and Virginia Medrida, who constituted questions in the exams.

Around 42,000 nursing graduates took the last board exam in 11 testing centers around the country. Around 17,000 nursing students passed the exam for a passing rate of 41 percent.

Emilio Dalmacio Evasco of the Board of Nursing said the Aug. 23 oath-taking for the board passers has been "held in abeyance."

Meanwhile, the oath-taking set for August 16 in Baguio City a few weeks ago after nursing students threw complainted of a leakage allegedly from the R. S. Gapuz Review Center branch in the city.

The review center has denied the allegations and is still operating. However, Fray Gapuz, founder and chairman of the company admitted that he received a leaked copy of an 18-page handwritten manuscript a day before the exams. But he claimed did not know the manuscript, which he ordered distributed to his students, was a "leakage."

HOLDING HANDS. Magdalo soldier 1/Lt Albert Guy is escorted out of the Quezon City court after the hearing

4 Magdalo officers want seized evidence quashed

FOUR OF THE SIX JUNIOR OFFICERS belonging to the rebel Magdalo group who were arrested in July during a raid of their Quezon City hideout questioned the legality of the search warrant used in the raid leading to their arrest.

At a court's, their arraignment yesterday on charges of illegal possession of firearms and explosives were deferred, while Judge Rosanna De Romero-Magbuyo of Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 88 considers their motion.

In two motions separately filed by their lawyers, the soldiers asked the court to declare the search warrant issued by retired Batasan Hills on July 7, and render inadmissible the evidence collected there.

The officers who filed the motion were 1st Lt. Sonny Sarmiento, 2nd Lt. Angelbert Cruz, 2nd Lt. Aldrin Galdonado, and Navy Lt. Ximon Suelto, as well as lawyer Jun Christopher Rebusoria, who also stands accused of the charges.

The rest of the accused were 1st Lt. Nathaniel Rabonera, whose lawyer failed to make it to the hearing, 1st Lt. Patricio Bautista, who was also absent, and another civilian respondent Michael Pangaco.

The eight were arrested during the raid on their safe house, which yielded high-powered weapons and the supposed blueprint of the Batasang Pambansa complex.

Sarmiento and Pangaco were arraigned earlier than the others in late July and pleaded innocent to the charges.

In their motions to quash and omnibus motion, the four officers and Sarmiento argued that Manila judge Antonio Eugenio, who had issued the search warrant, had no jurisdiction over the case.

Lawyer Roberto Batad Dyjuko, who represents Gay, Maldonado, Sudiva and Balmonte, said this was "highly irregular" since the Hilltown house was in Quezon City where three seven rooms that could have handled the case.

The military had contended that they might have problems with Quezon City courts because of the "significant connections" that the accused have at City Hall, based on "intelligence reports." Dyjuko said a complete set of Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr.'s Public and the applicants had failed to prove this.

Lawyer Theodore Te, who represents Sarmiento, said the police and military witnesses who had applied for the search warrant had failed to establish probable cause than there was need for one.

He also asked the court to suppress the objects seized from the house, saying they could not be admitted as evidence.

Magbuyo set the hearing on the motion for Aug. 16, and gave the prosecution 15 days to submit their comments. The arraignment of the rest of the accused was also tentatively set on that date.

Militants skeptical as PNP holds conference on killings

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE will hold today its multisectoral conference on the unsolved political killings, but it remained unclear whether all stakeholders would see their way clear to joining a discussion of ways to stem the rampage.

At press time yesterday, the prevailing view among militant groups ranged from skepticism to outright dismissal of the idea of holding talks with Task Force Usig, the PNP unit formed to look into the killing of journalists and leftist activists.

But PNP spokesperson Sr. Supt. Samuel Pagdilao Jr. expressed hope that militant groups would "see through the actions of the police."

"There are policemen (being) also involved in the killings and they are arrested by the PNP IC [anything], that is a message of our sincerity in solving these killings," he said.

Antagonism

Renato Reyes, secretary general of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, said his group would have to consult with the victims' families regarding whatever benefits might be earned from its presence at the conference.

"People are skeptical of Task Force Usig, and that will weigh heavily [on our decision to attend or not]," he said.

Whatever criticisms there were between the PNP and Bayan-allied groups appear to have soured earlier on.

Days before the conference, Deputy Director General Avelino Razon Jr., chief of Task Force Usig and the PNP deputy chief for administration, said certain party-list groups, the National Democratic Front, and the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army, were "decimating the people" by making it appear that they were distinct groups when they were not.

Razon also accused members of these party-list groups of interference in both the parliamentary and armed struggles.

List of invitees

On the list of invitees were members of militant groups as well as of the military, judiciary, media, business, clergy and protection organizations.

They included Chief Justice Reynaldo Puno, Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo, Commissioner Quintin Doroy, Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez of Caloocan, Archbishop Oscar Cruz of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, and Ignacio Ibiña of the National Council of Churches in the Philippines.

Pagdilao said the conference would be the first in a series of discussions that the PNP intended to hold.

He said the aim was basic: "We express to the public that everybody is agree that the killings should be stopped and that in order to stop them, the perpetrators must be identified, arrested and [taken] to court to answer for and be [held] responsible for their actions.

JUSMAG EVICTION

Ex-AFP chief denies harassing soldiers

By Dona Pazzibugan

FORMER ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF staff Benjamin Defensor denied he harassed Army officials and soldiers who carried out the eviction of former military and police officials from the Joint United States Military Advisory Group (Jusmag) compound in Fort Bonifacio.

"I don't know who invented that story," he said in a phone call to the Inquirer yesterday.

Defensor also denied he "moved heaven and earth" to ask for an extension to stay in his Jusmag quarters.

But then he added: "Unless there was a pending case (before the Supreme Court) I didn't move my things."

The Army on Monday identified Defensor as among the three ex-generals who continued to hold out in the disputed housing area while the families of 1,000 soldiers evicted or threatened officials have removed their quarters by Saturday.

The 15-year old dispute over the 40-hectare Jusmag property is pending before the Supreme Court.

The government, through the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA), removed the claim made by the Barefoots Homeowners Association Inc. (OFAI), composed of active and military officials occupying Jusmag in 1991.

Defensor turned over the keys to his quarters before noon Monday after a series of phone calls to Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr.

The two Air Force officers assigned to the interior undersecretary Melchor Buhain and to Army brigadier general Raymundo Jasper moved in Defensor's stay in their quarters.

"I was no longer living there. I have not been living there for a long time now. So how can I be evicted? I went back for a ceremonial turnover ... to show the soldiers that it can be done properly," Defensor said.

According to a member of the eviction team, Defensor was "loud, boisterous" as he insisted families must vacate the eviction order.

He denied he harassed Army chief Lt. Gen. Ruben Tolentino.

"I don't know of any instance of verbal abuse," said Defensor, a former Air Force chief who was military chief for only 10 days until he retired in November 2002.

Solve slays or lose jobs, cops warned

By Luige A. del Puerto

IN ANOTHER MOVE AIMED AT countering criticisms the police have on issue, rising enough, Philippine National Police Director General Oscar Calderon has told his field commanders their jobs would be on the line if they did not solve the unexplained killings, among other crimes, in their areas of jurisdiction.

Calderon said he would be summoning the regional police directors to brief him on the progress of their investigations in the killings mainly of militant activists and members of the media.

Asked about the consequences of the officers' failure to solve the killings, he said: "Their positions will be at stake. I will be judging them on their performance, so if they cannot deliver ... then they have no business being there."

"There are a lot of junior officers clamoring for positions," he added.

But Calderon clarified the officers' jobs would not depend on their ability to solve the killings alone, but would form part of their evaluation.

In some cases, solving a case might be really difficult, especially if it happens in a remote area, he said.

More than 200 activists and media persons have been killed since Ferdinand Marcos' martial law was declared in 2001, according to figures compiled by the Inquirer. The Commission on Human Rights has placed the number at more than 700, and the police at more than 100.

Police claimed to have solved two cases of media killings days after Mo Amoyo was a 10-week deadline but need to solve at least two cases.

Calderon said the police could not afford to be complacent.

Marines capture 5 Abus; Janjalani also hunted

MARINES CAPTURED FIVE SUSpected Muslim militant yesterday following a gunbattle on Jolo Island, where the military has been hacked offensive against Abu Sayyaf and Khadaffy Janjalani and Indonesian terror suspects, officials said.

It was not clear if Janjalani or members of the al-Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiyah organization, all targets of ongoing US-backed offensive, were among the group of Abu Sayyaf men who clashed with members of the 3rd Philippine Marine Brigade near mountainous forest town, where thick jungles are a known hide of the rebels.

Marine forces rounded on a group of Abu Sayyaf guerrillas in dawn, setting off a 30-minute gun battle, military spokesman Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro said. There was no immediate report of casualties.

The Marines recovered in assault rifles and a pistol left by the rebels and later apparently captured five men near the vicinity, Bacarro said without elaborating.

Government forces launched a crackdown in Jolo early this month after local residents claimed to have seen Janjalani, a Filipino-born militant who spoke on condition of anonymity because he's not authorized to talk to reporters.

Among the holdouts who took refuge in Jolo with Janjalani were Umar Patek, suspected mastermind of the 2002 nightclub bombings in Indonesia's resort island of Bali that killed 202 people, the officer said.

Other military officials have said another 2002 Bali bombing suspect who goes by one name, Dulmatin, may also be hiding with Abu Sayyaf leaders in Jolo.

The United States has offered huge rewards for the capture of Dulmatin and Patek who Philippine police intelligence officials believe fled from Indonesia after the 2002 Bali bombing.

Last week, Philippine military officials reported that Isnan Fabiran, son of one-armed Abu Sayyaf commander Saddam Fabiran, died after being wounded in a clash with troops.

The father said son, who also had an arm amputated, are among 19 Abu Sayyaf rebels on a US Defense Department list offering rewards for information leading to their capture.

US troops, stationed on Jolo as part of counterterrorism assistance focusing on humanitarian work and providing intelligence and communications support to the Philippine military offensives, US and Philippine officials said. AP

Japayuki departures down to a trickle; cost to RP is $1B

By Jerome Aning

RECRUITERS OF OVERSEAS PERforming artistes (OPAs) for the Japanese entertainment industry yesterday called on the Philippine and Japanese governments to ease their dialogue to ease up the immigration restrictions that has drastically affected the deployment of OPAs to Japan.

Lorenzo Langamon, president of the Philippine Association of Recruiters Employing Artists (Peraida) told reporters that the number of Filipino entertainers sent to Japan plummeted from between 3,000 and 4,000 monthly before 2005 to only about 200 a month this year.

"We've deployed only about 1,000 OPAs since January; we'd be lucky if we'd be able to send 10,000," Langamon said. "We're now sending just a mere 10 percent of the number we used to send before."

The Peraida chief recalled that 2004 deployment once peaked up to 48,000 before 2005, making OPAs the country's biggest labor export.

New immigration rules imposed by the Japan in March last year negated many of the OPAs to land a showbiz experience from an entertainment venue outside Japan, or a two-year education from an entertainment institution.

The new regulations were imposed after Japan, along with the Philippines, was placed on the United States' watchlist for rampant human trafficking.

The plunge in OPA deployment cost the country about $1 billion in direct and indirect remittances, not to mention displacing thousands of employees from entertainment agencies, making owners and entertainers-related firms technically breathing from the DFA, industry Langamon said.

The Japanese entertainment industry also suffered from the restrictions.

About 60 percent for entertainment centers in Japan have shut down because of the shortage of OPAs.

Langamon also recounted meeting in Manila many Japanese who used to work as waiters or hostesses in Japan and were now seeking employment in the local entertainment centers.

"Usually, it's the Filipino wives of Japanese citizens who now work in the entertainment clubs," he said, adding that despite the shortage of entertainers, OPAs' wages only rose slightly since many clubs have already shut down.

Langamon also said doubts whether Tokyo's immigration restrictions for OPAs could really stop human trafficking.

He noted that the Japanese government recently tossed up the tourist visa-application procedures in a bid to improve Japan's tourism industry.

Citing statistics from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, he said that since last year, between 800 and 1,000 Filipinos have been going to Japan as tourists.

"With the difficult times we're currently experiencing, would you believe that we have 1,000 tourists go to Japan every month?" he asked.

Langamon said many of the "tourists" end up as undocumented and overstaying aliens, the women mostly landing in clubs where they are subjected to maltreatment and even sexual harassment.

The Hotel and Restaurant visa application was being used by illegal recruiters in the Philippines to send undocumented workers to the Japan, the Peraida chief added.

"The sad thing is that many Filipinos opt to take this route and send illegal recruiters if only to get to Japan quickly," he said.

For his part, Alfredo Palaparan, chair of the Federated Associations of Manpower Exporters, said the OPA industry was journeying a two-pronged approach to lighten up, if not reverse, the effect of the restrictions.

First is by trying to convince the implementors of the regulations to accept OPAs with years of previous experiences in Japan as entertainers.

"What's happening now is that if, for example, you worked as entertainer in Japan for 10 years, you won't be accepted back anymore because you must have worked for at least two years outside Japan," Palaparan said.

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration was currently consulting a list of OPAs who had been in Japan to bolster its negotiations with the Japanese immigration authorities, he said.

The second approach is political. Industry said OPA recruiters, with the help of POEA and the Department of Foreign Affairs, have been attending and seeking support of Japanese politicians who could help Manila lobby for the relaxation of the new rules.

BANCO DE ORO

iPod. iLike!

A sound deal from BDO Shop More MasterCard!

Simply EasyTRANSFER your balance and choose from either:

A cool iPod shuffle for FREE!* for an 18- or 24-month installment term

or a low rate of 0.99%!** for a 12-month installment term

An offer you'll like. A rate you'll love.

Either way, it's a deal that's music to your ears!

Hurry! Ask about it now. Call 631-8000 or 1-800-10-6318000

Easy Transfer

Credit Cards

5 US solons coming for talks

FIVE MEMBERS OF the US House of Representatives, led by a World War II veteran who saw action in the Philippines, will be in Manila for bilateral talks in a three-day visit beginning tomorrow, the US Embassy announced yesterday.

The lawmakers are all members of the House International Relations Committee, led by its Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-Fla.), with members Melvin Watt (D-NC), Dana Rohrabacher (R-Cal), Jeff Flake (R-Ari), and Ted Poe (R-Texas).

They will meet President Macapagal-Arroyo to discuss economic, political, and security issues and to reaffirm US-Philippines bilateral ties, the embassy said.

They will also join US and Filipino veterans at a ceremony on Friday afternoon at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, where Hyde will lay a wreath in honor his "fellow veterans," it added.

Hyde fought in World War II as a US naval commander and participated in the Allied landings at Lingayen Gulf in the Philippines in January 1945.

According to the senator, Hyde's chairmanship of the International relations committee now has him playing a vital role in Washington's war on terrorism. He has been involved in critical debates about how the country must respond in the wartime attacks perpetrated on the US on Sept. 11, 2001.

"Through his leadership, [the committee] has brought attention to the fact that America does not do a good enough job telling its story abroad," the embassy said.

Computers to minimize, but not eliminate cheating, says Palace

THE COMPUTERIZATION OF NEXT YEAR'S elections will lead to a "cleaner and faster" polling process but Malacañang admits there is no assurance there will be no cheating.

"I think it will be cleaner and faster but as to whether there will be no cheating, having been in politics myself, I can't say absolutely there will be no cheating," said Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita in a briefing.

"Cheating is done in many ways, but I'm sure that it will be minimized and it will definitely cut down [on] the irregularity of the election process will be recognized."

Ermita said cheating up until spending the elections were the reasons why Malacañang was intent on the automation of the 2007 elections. That's why it is aggressively pushing for the use of the automated counting machines (ACMs) of Mega Pacific that have been tilted in the Commission on Elections after the Supreme Court voided the deal, he said.

"He also stated that these things [Mega Pacific component] could be used because this is one of the orders of the President. But we have to bow down to what is legislated if this is allowed by the Supreme Court," said Ermita.

Malacañang has endorsed a petition filed by President Arroyo's election lawyer, Romulo Macalintal, to use the Mega Pacific components as it was too late for the government to conduct a new bidding which is closer to contracted to raise for the May polls.

Macalintal said that ACMs could ensure that at least 70 percent of next year's elections would be automated after the Department of Science and Technology declared Mega Pacific's system as "interoperable" as well using the ACMs would not preclude the SC from determining the electoral fortunes of the individuals involved in the case.

Ermita said he was aware that the computer might not be allowed by the SC to be utilized because it was part of the evidence in the case being pursued by the Ombudsman against Comelec and private officials that were behind the P1.23 billion contract for the ACMs that were supposed to be used in the 2004 elections.

The failure to automate the elections continues to haunt the President who has yet to shake off allegations that she cheated in the 2004 polls.

Get rid of your flabby arms & ugly bulging back.

Bras and baby tees are such an unforgiving pair when you have loose, flabby arms and bulging back fats. Shape up and trim down all those excess flabs at Marie France! Turn those saga into slimmer, sleeker arms and get rid of all unsightly bulges. End your frustrations over skimpy outfits and be confident to wear anything you want soon!

Call our slimming professionals NOW.

FREE Weight Loss Starter Program worth P10,000 when you enroll between August 7-12, 2006 only!

Call 894-BODY (2639)

marie france

KAMAYA ORTIGAS TOMAS MORATO BINONDO ALABANG SHAW CONGRESSIONAL PAMPANGA • TEL. 961-2981 CEBU • TEL. 232-7637

BUENA MANO Auction

2006 AUCTION TOUR

SOUTH LUZON

PROVINCIAL CONTACT NOS.: LIPA (Batangas) - (043) 757-1001 • SAN PABLO (Laguna) - (049) 561-3669

as low as **9.5%** interest

as long as **12 years** payment term

Max's Restaurant San Pablo
Maharlika Highway, San Pablo City (Laguna)
August 27, 2006 – Sunday, 1:00 PM

LOW downpayment

THE PROPERTY FORUM PHILS.

CALL NOW! MONDAY TO SUNDAY

Toll-free PH# Phone Nos: 634-8686 & 634-8726 • 24/7 Cellphone No.: (0921) 873-2686

Batangas: (0917) 544-0902 • Cavite: (0918) 904-6230 • Rizal: (0921) 509-4967 • Laguna: (0919) 585-1050 • Quezon: (0920) 922-0495

All properties for sale are on an "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" • Properties may be withdrawn without prior notice

'8th impeach rap ...

Front page A1

A senior committee member, Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Villafuerte, had pointed out that some of the endorsers of the eighth impeachment complaint were also named in a Commission on Audit (COA) report as among those whom disbursed unaccounted-for funds.

Mikey Arroyo

After the defeat of its motion for the inhibition of certain lawmakers, the minority staged a futile attempt to delay the voting on the form, compiling steps to remove Mr. Arroyo's cousin Rep. Margarita Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, from the proceedings.

At 2:21 p.m., Albayan Rep. Edcel Rosales and Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño asked Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. to suspend the session for the inhibition of Villafuerte, which was lodged by the impeachment complainants through their lawyer Noel Cabangbang.

The petition was lodged two hours earlier with the Office of the Secretary-general.

Both Rosales and Casiño pointed out that the petition should be given due course because it asked for the inhibition of the President's son out of chivalrous.

Determining, however, ruled that the committee had no power to force its members to recuse themselves, and that the decision should rest with the younger Arroyo, who quickly turned it down.

Mikey Arroyo later told reporters that he had repeatedly reminded his constituents, who said they wanted him to continue discharging his "duties."

Issue to agree on

It was House Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Raul del Mar who moved for the early determination of the complaint's form.

"I believe it is obvious that the complaint has satisfied the requirement of sufficiency in form," he said, pointing out that the complaint was duly verified, contained resolutions of endorsement and complied with the format prescribed by the House.

"I think this is an issue that the majority and minority could agree on," he said, after which he made a motion declaring the complaint sufficient in form.

Taken aback by the haste with which the majority was putting the motion to a vote, the House minority pleaded for a debate, but it did not raise an objection when the hearing resumed.

House Deputy Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano quickly noted that the majority was following the "script" used last year in disposing of the three impeachment complaints against Mr. Arroyo.

'Lost' appeal

Voting 22-22, the committee junked the appeal from House Deputy Minority Leader Rodolfo Fabian challenging Representative voting on Monday that the body had no power to inhibit its members. Read it in the final score.

"There were 22 'yes' votes and 43 'no,' so the appeal was lost," Umenguang said.

According to Golez, the committee members linked to the scam should be inhibited to prevent anyone from questioning their votes later on, when the committee decides what to do with the remaining impeachment complaints against the President.

"There were 58 regular and ex-officio members mentioned. That is quite a sizable number of votes, and it might be very difficult to grapple with the [possible] conflict of interest," he said.

Golez said former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn Tee Jr.'s affidavit, the alleged architect of the fund scam, was set to file a deposition with the US immigration court believed to be hearing his petition for asylum.

He suggested that Bolante might name names.

"I don't know if [the deposition] is going to be relevant, but it might affect their standing in the committee," Golez said in reference to the lawmakers linked to the scam.

Named in COA report

But Villafuerte pointed out that two of the four endorsers of the remaining impeachment complaints—Bukidnon Rep. Teresita Acosta and Cagayan Rep. Manuel Mamba—were named in the COA report.

He said former Education Secretary and Batasan Rep. Florencio Abad—the husband of another endorser, incumbent Batasan Rep. Herminia Abad—was also mentioned there.

He did not add that the name of Soraya Jaquia, the fourth endorser, was also on the list.

"The COA report transmitted by Representative Golez yesterday included the names of complaint endorsers Acosta, Mamba, and ... Abad, whose wife is now the representative of Batasan," Villafuerte said, adding:

"If we accept [Golez's] motion, it means that if your name is on the list, there is a conflict of interest to be avoided.

"Does this mean that the endorsers should also inhibit themselves [because] their names were on the list?"

Villafuerte said he saw "not attacking anyone."

'Not an indictment'

"In fact, I'm defending Representative Acosta and the others. Being on the list does not mean that you're already guilty. That's wrong and unfair," he said.

House Deputy Majority Leader Arthur Defensor also defended the committee decision, saying his name had also appeared on the COA list despite the testimony of the witnesses in the Senate inquiry into the fund scam that he was not involved in it.

"If I inhibited, wouldn't that be an admission [of guilt]? Is that your idea of justice? Is that fair?" Defensor said.

He said the insistence on the inhibition of those whose names were on the list was tantamount to "pronouncing judgment that in one way or another, they were involved in an anomaly."

"Mauna naman po kayo. Please take pity on us[. Please don't] contribute to speculation. The COA list is not an indictment," he said.

Makati Rep. Teodoro "Teddyboy" Locsin Jr., who was the first to speak out against the fund, got third score on the House floor, also defended the decision not to inhibit, saying that to do so would render the impeachment hearings useless to "the short attack of [our] bodies."

Locsin said it would be unfair for the named lawmakers to inhibit themselves because it had yet to be proved that they actually received the Jillian funds. He said those lawmakers should be held answerable only to their constituents come election time.

On the other hand, Cayetano said the opposition wanted the named lawmakers to inhibit to keep the impeachment process intact and above suspicion.

OPPOSITION House members stand to vote for Rep. Rolo Golez's motion for legislators linked in the fertilizer scam to inhibit themselves from the impeachment process while Rep. Douglas Cagas hangs on to his seat. The motion is defeated.

After snubs, GMA execs attend in full force Senate hearing

Front page A1

ecutive branch from attending congressional hearings without the go-signal from Mr. Arroyo.

Senate President Manuel Villar said the senators might bring Mr. Arroyo's order to the Supreme Court issue.

The Supreme Court upheld on April 25 the right of lawmakers to compel the appearance of executive branch officials at congressional inquiries, saying that the latter are involving SO 464 particularized not only to Congress' right to know but also the people's right to take part in government affairs.

But the silenced declaration, however, stressed the President's right to ban executive officials from appearing during the question hour in both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Loudest clerk, too

"I hope SO 464 won't be invoked in next week's hearing because they are here in full force. There must be a reason why they are all here now," Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said at the end of a rejuvenhour hearing of the committee chaired by Sen. Franklin Drilon.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said virtually everyone in the executive branch from the highest Cabinet secretary to the lowliest desk aide covered by the President's order barring them from congressional hearing without her consent.

"I might say everyone is covered," Ermita said after the Senate sought clarification from Malacañang on the coverage of its subalterns' policy on governmental officials giving their testimony to Congress.

Because of the big number of Palace officials and lack of time, Drilon scheduled a second hearing for Monday. The officials promised to show up at the next hearing.

Sen. Roggay Sotto Recto, whose inquiry into the government's procurement activities originated from Lebanon was confined twice by Cabinet and other executive officials, bitterly noted: "If they ask for funds, they come to full force. But if we want to know about the truth, they send us."

Owwa chief, too

The 20 Malacañang officials who appeared yesterday included Marlinda Reyes, administrator of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, one of six officials the Senate labor committee has subpoenaed to appear in the inquiry into the evacuation of Filipinos from Lebanon.

Reyes excused herself at the start of the 1 p.m. hearing to attend to the issue of a political rift in the war-torn Middle East country. He returned after 3 p.m.

After the hearing, Reyes appreached Estrada and made what appeared to be a peace offering. He invited the opposition senator to transfer her to his office to go attending to Filipino evacuees.

Others who had an inside coming to the inquiry first budget caucus were Secretaries Rolando Andaya Jr. (budget), Romeo Bautista (commissioner of agrarian reform), Avelino Cruz Jr. (d defense and Joel Lupus (education).

Finance Undersecretary Gil Beltran, Labor Undersecretary Manuel Imson, Metro Rail Transit 3 general manager Roberto Lastimoso, Philippine Health Insurance Corp. senior vice president Melinda Morrales and officials of the Department of Interior and Local Government.

Abalos, too

Even Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos showed up. The Senate has called his office to inquire into the alleged misuse of his title in the sealed deal with Mega Pacific for the automation of vote counting.

Andaya presented Malacañang's request for a P46.448-billion supplemental budget, mostly to cover the shortfall in the budget of certain departments due to the non-passage of the proposed national budget (FY) 2006 still in the 2006.

He also asked the Senate to approve a P5-billion standby fund for the repatriation of Filipinos in Lebanon and other affected countries in the Middle East.

The supplemental budget includes P4.6 billion for the Department of Agrarian Reform's implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program, P1.5 billion for the Department of Education, P1.4 billion for the salaries of jail guards, firemen, and bureau of Quezon police men; P826 million for the DILG, PCW and, for the Food is School Program of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Some P5.2 billion is mainly for the DOTC's P1.02-billion for the Commission on Elections' automation project and preparations for the 2007 midterm election, P459 billion for the Philippine Personnel Benefits Fund that includes P1.1 billion in Philhealth premium subsidy for indigents, P1.6 billion for total government unit share from the national health, P4.9 billion for pension and P 11.9 billion Internal Revenue Allotment for LGUs.

Andaya said the P46.9 billion in supplemental budget would be funded from revenue collection amounting to P39 billion this year.

Sen. Ralph Recto asked why Malacañang was asking for less money now when it could have gotten more had it accepted the 2006 budget version of the first one, which is lower than P64 billion than what it had proposed.

Discrepancies in figures

Andaya said he was still hopeful Congress would approve the 2006 budget, that he said he recommended to President Macapagal-Arroyo the supplemental budget "just in case" Congress would not.

Sen. Sergio Osmeña III pointed out that Malacañang's supplemental budget is just sought as an interim over the 2005 reenacted budget.

After the hearing, Drilon said Andaya and other Cabinet officials had failed to explain the discrepancies in the figures.

"Because of lack of time, we have requested the secretaries to submit to us a written explanation on the discrepancies," Drilon said.

The senators were keen on pulling Andaya and Beltran on the P5-billion standby standby appropriation which is initially expected to be financed from the net of the

PhilHealth cards for poll:

"The only kinks in the hearing were courtesy of Philhealth's Morales.

"I suggest you come to this hearing prepared. Otherwise, this hearing would drag on," an irritated Drilon said after Morales gave confusing figures on Philhealth's benefit system.

Upon Sen. Joker Arroyo's questioning, it was confirmed that the arroyo administration used the PhilHealth card during the 2004 presidential elections.

Morales admitted that from 9.8 million families who had PhilHealth cards in 2003, the number increased to 15 million families in December 2004, just months after the presidential election. But after the national elections, the benefit figures dropped to 12 million.

"So after the elections, they were left hanging?" Arroyo asked.

Insurance not renewed

Morales explained that after the elections, the government did not renew most of the PhilHealth insurance of 6.2 million indigent people. She said the President issued an executive order stating that the P2.47 billion would be covered hence.

Drilon said the PhilHealth beneficiaries would probably be increased in time for the 2007 elections.

Sen. Edgardo Angara said he saw no problem in the immediate approval of the supplemental budget to the Senate. He said the senators agreed to a caucus last Monday to approve the budget request as soon as possible.

The Most Advanced Waterproofing Systems

MAPEI Waterproofing for concrete

Idrosilex Fronte
Fast, Easy, Practical, Permanent and Ready-to-use waterproofing mortar for concrete surfaces. Since it is mortar based it is compatible with concrete and is 100% fast and seepage proof.

Mapelastic
Two component flexible cementitious mortar for the protection and waterproofing of concrete surfaces. Elastomeric membrane and swimming pools

Lamposilex
Hydraulic binder with ultra fast setting and strong for plugging water leaks. Use it in any area where water under pressure is encountered, tunnels, subways etc. and for sealing waterproof pipe penetrations, concrete structures, cement joints and cylinder.

GENIE B.I.M. General Membrane
Elastomeric Type Modified Waterproofing Membrane
Ideal for waterproofing and protection of concrete surfaces. Recommended for the following applications:
• High mechanical resistance • High elongation
• High protection membrane • 100% non bitumen

DEXTERTON
Dexterton Corporation

The THX experience.
Giving you more than the hard sell

THX

'Third party' steals ...

Front page A1

that such a phenomenon had occurred in the weather bureau's old.

What made it somewhat strange was that Mayor Alfredo Lim's reporting bureau then was at nine in most of Luzon because of the presence of heat and today only eight in a bit of members.

Blame it on "a third party," attack, stated. She relatively night and dry conditions in Luzon and Mayor Alfredo yesterday said Pagasa weather branch chief Rachunliu Dyan.

"A third weather disturbance, a low-pressure area that has yet to enter the PAR], is pulling the effects of the southwest monsoon from southern Luzon to the Visayas and Mindanao," Dyan said in the briefing.

The low-pressure area has yet to be named, but according to Dyan, it will be called "Kiko-ng" if it develops into a tropical depression. It is weather disturbance with wind strengths of below 60 kilometers per hour) and enters the PAR.

"What we can't figure out is why a low-pressure area, a weak weather disturbance, is moving in pull the southwest monsoon away from a typhoon [like Isang]," Dyan said.

"It is weak and is still way out there. We don't know why it's happening, but it's happening," he said.

Asked if he considered the unseasonably "Cool rain" this."

"There might be something happening in the upper troposphere that the surface data are not picking up."

[The troposphere is the lowest layer of the atmosphere.]

Following a track

Typhoons and storms that enter the PAR no longer usually follow a track that takes them to either northern Luzon or south of the island.

They usually enhance the southwest monsoon to bring rain over northern and Central Luzon even if they do not make landfall.

Dyan said that instead of hitting over Luzon protecting the rain fell over the Visayas and Mindanao because of the low-pressure area east of the Visayas [and still outside the PAR].

He said that in Luzon, only the Bicol region as well as Aklan and Capiz [in Visayas].

"If there were no low-pressure area, the effects of this southwest monsoon would have been pulled by Auto toward northern Luzon. It would have caused one more pulse of Luzon," Dyan said.

Fisherman drowns

In Cebu, strong waves displaced at least 600 persons and destroyed around 80 houses in the coastal villages of Tungkay, Bunakay and Poblacion in Talisay City, 12 km south of Cebu City.

A fisherman identified as Juan Abatolon, 30, drowned on Tuesday night off the shore of Barangay Dumlog, according to village chief Chester Bacillero.

He said the waves became stronger early yesterday morning, forcing residents to leave their houses.

Bacillero said the strong waves brought on by the southwest monsoon (habagat) smashed 60 houses in the shore of Libaros, Cogon and Kolokihan.

He said most of the displaced families were being sheltered at the barangay hall.

Quoting a patrol report, Talisay social welfare officer Celsoo Cadiente said around 281 families, or 1,402 persons] had been displaced in Tungkay.

More than 100 houses in Libaros, Tungkay, Kolokihan and Cogon were destroyed, said Barangay Council Alex Alcantara.

The extent of the damage in Poblacion has yet to be assessed yet.

Bacilodo said her office was distributing food and other supplies to all those displaced.

She said strong waves off the coastal villages of Talisay were common during the habagat "but this is the worst because waves of houses were destroyed."

In Bacolod, Nicolas Gaite, the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office reported flooding in five southwestern towns that affected 1,011 families, damaged 155 houses and destroyed 19 others.

The flooding in the towns of Sagay, Binalbagan [2,202 families affected], Isabela [334 families], Pulupandan [180 families], Valladolid [496 families] and Bacolod [655 families] was triggered by heavy rains brought by Isang and, later, the PAWEO storm.

Gov. Joseph Marañon said food aid had been sent to the affected towns.

Today's forecast

Cruz said today's weather is almost the same as yesterday's, that the low-pressure area would dissipate intensify.

At past 5 p.m. yesterday, the low-pressure area had yet to move from outside the PAR].

But it continues to affect the southwest monsoon, where there Aurs and Isday does, pulling rain toward southern Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao, Cruz said.

According to Pagasa's 5 p.m. weather bulletin yesterday, there will be isolated showers or thunderstorms over northern Luzon.

Metro Manila will likely have the same weather as yesterday despite Jumaadi Dadoy's presence.

The western section of Central Luzon, Southern Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms that will develop into frequent rain.

The rest of Luzon will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

"Moderate to strong winds blowing from the southwest and seas will prevail over the western section of Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, and the coastal waters along these areas. Travel by smaller sea vessels is not to caught," Pagasa said.

"Elsewhere, winds will be light to moderate, blowing from the southwest and south with slight to moderate seas," it said. With reports from Jhannes Napalcaan and Carlo J Gomez, Inquirer Visayas

No Viagra for Indian, 88, in land ...

Front page A1

"I don't want to live to 100 but as long as I live, I should be able to enjoy sex," Ram, who lives in a village in the Sikar district in the western desert state of Rajasthan, was quoted in the newspaper as saying.

The prosperous farmer, with a flowing white beard and a worry-is-for-the-young attitude, drinks vodka every day and has been drinking twice-distilled milk since childhood.

3rd wife

Ram's third and latest wife is 45 years old. They have been married for two decades, but only one boy survived.

The newspaper reported that Jat celebrated the birth of the surviving son with a feast for villagers and said he would aim for more children.

While daily sex is a proverbial key to a cause for celebration in India, that officials think an active sex life is bad for young men.

In Surgikot, migrant watchdogs have banned 3 liter of condoms whose manufacturers claim they can help men maintain erections. They suggested the ban could drive youngsters into having sex earlier, newspapers reported Tuesday.

'Tom Dundee'

The condoms are usually named "Tom Dundee" after the stage name of a popular country singer, but librarians of Culture officials said this was inappropriate and offended good taste and sold on the "Dad, Bob called said.

"Dundee" is "Tom means "Good Incarnation."

Although the name is not vulgar or rude, it is ambiguous, boastful and provocative," said Lalda Chaturvedi of the Cultural Women Union.

"It could entice consumption and late children and youths into sex, society is not having sexual activities before their appropriate age," she added. Reuters

Disney Aladdin
Music by Alan Menken
Lyrics by Howard Ashman and Tim Rice
Directed by Joy Virata
Choreographed by Douglas Nierras
Opens August 12, 2006
Onstage, Greenbelt 1, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
For inquiries, please call 867-8700 | 891-9999

A Seat fit for the Lil' King
Introducing the Ayala Malls Cinemas BOOSTER BUDDY.

NATION IN GRIP OF TERROR

Solon asks Congress to act on killings

By Michael Lim Ubac

WITH THE CONTINUING KILLINGS OF leftist activists and journalists, the nation "is slowly being gripped into the regime with terror," said the chair of the House committee on human rights.

In a privilege speech last Tuesday, Muntinlupa Representative Rodolfo Biazon, a retired major general, called the extension of Malacañang and Congress to the country's problem-solving bodies in the region.

Biazon's criticisms on the heels of the conclusion of an international fact-finding mission of the International Peasant Solidarity Mission that found "clear indications" of the involvement of the military, including Brig. Gen. Jovito Palparan, in most of the political killings since 2001.

Under the command of Palparan, "the military had become more brazen," said the minister, which disclosed that "some of the human rights violations were committed by uniformed soldiers or by men in civilian clothes who introduced themselves as soldiers."

Biazon said the cold-blooded murder of activists and journalists, and unlawful disappearances, were "actually systemic in nature" and thus required no less than drastic measures such as a "unified intelligence formation" and quick end to the Arroyo administration's all-out war and militarization of the state through "state violence."

Biazon said that although President Arroyo condemned during her State of the Nation Address on July 24 the killings and later ordered authorities to solve at least 10 killings in 10 weeks, extra-judicial killings continued to escalate.

He noted that Palparan, commander of the 7th Infantry Division based in Central Luzon, had announced a "counter-strategy of more violence" to end the spate of violence.

"Violence violence begets violence. Gusto ng pagpatay, dahas ang sukuan, ito ay isa sa aya, a tooth for a tooth," said Biazon.

The lawmaker pointed out that this was the "classical approach to extralegal justice which can be traced to an Old Testament dark ages."

Akbayan Representative Loretta Ann Rosales, saying the unconstitutional measure was to "give highest priority to protect and enhance the right of the people to human dignity."

"From the human rights perspective, we must always remember to uphold the fundamental right to life, liberty and property, being the cornerstone duties of the state to safeguard and protect," said Atienza. "If, as mentioned, we cannot protect the people's rights, without due process of law, we will not be able to achieve the rule of law."

Atienza then pushed for the speedy enactment of the pending measure criminalizing torture and the enforcement of disappearance bill.

Incredible price with
TFT LCD MONITOR
- Auto tune of TFT LCD Monitors & TV
- Made in Taiwan, Bright Now
- Made by itself, still 0 s
- Low Noise
- All parts for Sale
- TV Tuner, tuner your monitor into TV
- 1 Year Long warranty
- Distributor of LG TV Monitors Sale Cheap
- 17" Silver Touch L700 Only

Buy 1 unit of monitor, you can get CPU for only P1,000

Distributor are Welcome/Panel Repair Service

Call: 03-1940803 • 1130819 • 0917-8233713

idisc
The New Split Type Aircon
Wall-Mounted
1hp-P16,500
1.5hp-P19,500, 2hp-P23,500
2.5hp-P28,500, 3hp-P33,000
Floor Mounted
3hp-P39,500 5hp-P53,000
Ceiling Mounted 3hp-P39,500
Free Installation!
Call 243-2810,241-4731,09193248218
Available at: SM Home Depot / Parts & Antiques

Rainy Days Galore!
PROMO MUSIC FROM AUG 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2006
REASONABLE OVERNIGHT ROOM RATES:
Regular Rooms ..... P 1,200.00 ..... P 900.00
Manila Rooms ..... P 1,300.00 ..... P 1,000.00
Garden Rooms ..... P 2,500.00 ..... P 1,700.00
Executive Rooms ..... P 2,800.00 ..... P 1,800.00
Deluxe Rooms ..... P 3,000.00 ..... P 2,400.00
Suite Rooms ..... P 3,500.00 ..... P 2,800.00
Vacation Villa ..... P 7,500.00 ..... P 5,000.00
CELEBRATING EVENTS, CONVENTIONS & MEETINGS

Saves about 80% on your aircon bills... use
IWATA EVAPORATIVE AIR-CONDITIONER
WITHOUT COMPRESSOR & FREON GAS
Slim
Metro
Holly
Maiden
Cadet
Also available at: Iwata Aircon Center, Cubao
Other savings on electricity bills...
about 60% less compared to conventional aircons.
Pure Home Cool Rain Showers of Cooling Evaporative Airconditioning
COLENT ENTERPRISE CO.

Peter Lee, 78
PETER LEE, OWNER, surveyor and official head of Peter Lee's Hong Kong Tea House-in Malate, Ermita, has passed away at age 78.
He Peter to his friends in media, Lee left behind his wife Mary, children Jessie and Larry Dee, with nad Cora, Jessica, and Lola and Jet. brown, and grandchildren Tikkah, Annie, Andrea and Ethan.
The remains of Lee can be viewed at the Pat Memorial Parlor on Arnaiz Avenue. Cremation will be held on Friday at the Chinese cemetery.

An Invitation To A
PILGRIMAGE TO THE
MARIAN SHRINES
16 Days
DEPARTURE DATE: October 7, 2006
By: ALOY ALIÑO
Pilgrimage Chaplain
EXECUTIVE RESOURCES, INC.
THE CENTER for PILGRIMAGES since 1981
PTAA

ATTENTION ALL DENTISTS !!!
DON'T MISS THE LECTURE OF:
DR. LAURENCE J. WALSH
PREDICTIVE DENTISTRY
A SOLID FOUNDATION OF TREATMENT
WHEN : AUGUST 19, 2006 SATURDAY
WHERE : PAN PACIFIC HOTEL - ADRIATICO ST., MANILA
TIME : 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM
FEE : P 1,000.00 DAVITE : P1,200.00
Contact the following numbers for details:
(02) 248-4087 / 0920 945 9822
0917 897 7245
Dr. Walsh is a world-renowned speaker and the Head, School of Dentistry, University of Queensland, Australia.
Go
REGISTER NOW!!!

ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT for CARWASH BUSINESS
Industrial Wet & Dry Vacuum Cleaner
Sale Price P20,500
P3,100
Heavy-duty High Pressure Washer
Lavamanda 2K7
BANILA 1351 M. ORCOS ST., MALATE, MLA.
Tel. Nos.: 5244335 • 5340529 • 5245296

SUPER SULIT OFFER
AURORA
Reg./NCAR!!! SC-582
Scientific Calculator w/ 240 Functions
GET FREE
PHP 400.00
1 BOX of VERBATIM 1.44MB (41/100) diskette
Distributed by: ANTECH PENGDOM

Parol Fresh
Oil Solution

PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR
No. 17, s.2006

TO : ALL ACCREDITED INSTITUTIONAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT : Submission of Reinvention or Agreement (MOA) or Protocols with Outsourced Services

The Corporation is mandated to ensure that quality health care services are provided to all members and beneficiaries of the National Health Insurance Program through contractors. To meet the quality/service standards set by the Corporation, outsourcing of hospital services is essential. The most common expense in terms of purchasing equipment and minor overhead expenses.

In order to implement the outsourcing of services, laboratory (class C) and ancillary (level 1) and its hospital-based counterpart Philhealth's copy of the MOAs executed between the hospital and the outsourced service, and within a month upon the commencement of the service and every renewal of accreditation.

A breach on newly undertaken that when it is the hospital that is granted accreditation, it is the one responsible for the services or functions of the outsourced service unit.

The basic provisions of the contract agreed by the two parties (the hospital and the outsourced service) and it shall include among others the following agreements:

1. Provision that the "outsourced service unit" in the hospital's service agreement and that it will provide the client the quality of services and safety measures as at times;
2. The outsourced service unit's continuing compliance of the Corporation's right is insisted that "outsourced service unit" including personnel assigned for validation of continuing for the requirements of Philhealth;
3. The validity of the contract shall shall cover the entire accreditation period on the hospital;
4. Only a maximum of 3 hospitals can have a MOA with an "outsourced service unit"; and
5. Only the accredited hospital can claim for reimbursement of services to the Corporation provided by the outsourced service unit.

In addition to the basic provisions mentioned above, the following agreements shall be entered in the MOAs depending on the outsourced services offered:

For the Outsourced Dialysis Service

1. Provision stating that the hospital shall be responsible for any untoward incident that may occur during the provision of the outsourced service;
2. The agreement of the parties involved in providing the dialysis nursing, other personnel and the necessary instruments, supplies, and equipment including their maintenance for the outsourced dialysis unit.

For the Outsourced Dialysis Service

1. Provision stating that the hospital shall be responsible for any untoward incident that may occur during the provision of the service.
2. Agreement that the hospital shall have an in-house Nutritionist-Dietician (ND) who will be responsible in providing dietetic counseling services, as well as coordinate with the dietary service provided the hospital. If the hospital does not have an ND, the outsourced dietary service provider should provide the said personnel.
3. The outsourced dietary service provider shall submit the Sanitary Permit, Personnel Permit and Health Certification of the said dietary personnel. Said documents shall be posted conspicuously in the dietary/canteen area.
4. The PMC license of the ND shall be posted conspicuously in the dietary reception area and shall be displayed to the MOA; and
5. Agreement of the parties in providing the necessary personnel, equipment, kitchen utensils including the preparation of food for the admitted patients.

For the Outsourced Ambulance Service

1. The clear out guidelines on the functions and responsibilities of the transport services provider including the party who should conduct/assess in the event that untoward incident happens to the patient during transfer;
2. The agreement between the parties on who shall provide the ambulance doctor;
3. The transfer of the vehicle within the premises of the hospital or outside (referral, emergency and so at time);
4. The authorized service to have the following equipment, emergency kit, and medicines for the safe transfer of patients:

Equipment	Medicine
a. Two (2) portable oxygen tank with gauge	a. Dynamapine ampule
b. Suction	b. Kalapsum ampule
c. Endotracheal tube	c. Solumedrol ampule
d. Laryngoscope/miniature	d. Furosemide ampule
e. Nasal Cannula	e. Ranitidine ampule
f. Foley Bulb	f. Ketorolac ampule
g. Endotracheal tubes	g. Epinephrine ampule
h. Laryngoscope w/ its blade	h. IV fluid

For the Outsourced Ancillary Laboratory, X-ray and Pharmacy Services

1. A provision stating that the hospital shall be responsible for any untoward incident that may occur in the provision of service;
2. Agreement that the ancillary service must provide the following personnel as are:
   a. Pathologist and Medical technologist (for the laboratory)
   b. Radiologist and Radiologic technologist (for the X-ray) and
   c. Pharmacist (for the pharmacy)
3. The outsourced ancillary service provider must have a valid license. Said license shall be posted conspicuously in the respective ancillary service unit;
4. The PRC license of the medical technologist, radiologic technologist and pharmacist shall be posted conspicuously in the area and shall be displayed to the MOA; and
5. Agreement of the parties involved in providing the necessary services and equipment for the patients.

Failure to submit the MOA to the Corporation would lead to denial or downgrading of accreditation.

This circular takes effect after fifteen (15) days from its publication in an Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

(Sgd.) LORNA D. PAJARDO, DEMD, M
Acting President and CEO

Date Signed: June 30, 2006

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC
JUST SAY "YES"!
The Philippine Daily Inquirer delivers
Call 896-6000 to subscribe

Evacuees evade soldiers, spend night in danger

By Ephraim Aguilar and Jojo Lea Bahon
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LEGAZPI CITY—"THE MILITARY DID not notice us," said Marivel Ayala, 33, who decided that her 3-year-old niece and three siblings would rather look themselves up at home than return to an evacuation center at Bogon Elementary School despite the mandatory evacuation ordered by disaster officials.

They were among those who returned to Bonga village on Tuesday morning along with a group of evacuees who decided to go back daily to their abandoned homes to launder clothes, cook food, bathe and feed their livestock.

But there were some who did not just launder their clothes. They waited for the clothes to dry up. Others did not just feed their pets but also slept with them the whole night, defying the evacuation order.

The village in this city is in the extended danger zone in the southeast sector, some 8.5 km from Mt. Mayon's crater.

"I decided not to make my 3-year-old sister go back to the evacuation center because it was obviously getting crowded and we feared that they might get sick like the child in the room next to ours that had been a day after the evacuation," Ayala said.

Ayala, the eldest in the family, said her three siblings, all in high school, had a hard time studying their lessons at night and dressing up for school in the morning.

Still farming

"We still feed Mayon's fury and are aware of its hazards, but I still just make them go back to the evacuation center if the volcano's unrest intensifies," she told the Inquirer while she guarded their belongings at the evacuation center while the rest of her family went back to Bonga.

Vicky Abellanes, 33, said she feared for her husband who was left at their home in Bonga to guard their belongings and livestock.

"We have to take care of the little belongings and animals we have, especially that we are not rich people," she said.

Her 70-year-old husband also checked on their corn crops in the upper part of the village leading to the volcano's face. Abellanes said while sobbing in the school yard in Barangay Gogon yesterday morning.

"I have been telling him not to go there anymore. But farming and selling our harvest are our main sources of living," Abellanes said.

Where are the goods?

At the San Andres resettlement site in Sto. Domingo, Albay, some evacuees complained that they were not receiving relief goods from the municipal government.

Some of them have been staying there for three weeks already.

The number of evacuees at the site has grown to 1,732 people or 1,101 families, which came from the villages of Ilobil Iraya, San Antonio, Sta. Misericordia and San Fernando.

Some of the evacuees who complained of not receiving relief goods on Monday were finally given their meal packs on Tuesday.

Abellanes, upon talking to other housewives in the evacuation center, said the meal packs did not contain the same quantity of goods.

"Some complained the rice was less than four kilos already. While others said they did not receive the two cans of sardines like before. Others lacked a pack of coffee or sugar," she said.

Rosenna Hafiez, 39, said she was given relief goods only on Tuesday night, which means that she and her family did not have a decent meal till that time.

She said she was just asking for food from neighbors, who had just enough for themselves.

Nubes said that out of hunger, some of the evacuees were forced to go back to their homes where they could see volunteers they wanted because root crops and vegetables were planted in their yards.

"I admit that my family only relies on the relief goods being given to us," she said.

Mercedes Medrano, 65, who was walking to a school yard in Gogon, approached the Inquirer and asked for money to buy coffee.

She said she only relied on her children for help. "But my children have their own lives now that they are married. So I'm all alone here," she said, nearly in tears.

Community spirit

Just like when they were still in their village, the evacuees still helped each other and shared whatever they had in the evacuation center.

The small families shared with the big families the relief goods, which were all of the same quantity.

Bernardino Mitra, 76, whose husband died in the 1993 eruption, said: "Since there are only three of us here in the evacuation center, we shared some of our rice with the other families who do not have enough."

6 in one bed

Unlike other evacuation centers in public schools, the San Andres resettlement site is a vacant land where affected villagers had to put up temporary sheds made of nipa and bamboo.

Esperanza Banda, 67, who took care of two disabled family members as their small son, in San Andres, said they had to endure the cold at night as six of them had to share one bed.

ROSA AYDALLA, 5, from Barangay Bogon in Legazpi C evacuation center in the Gogon Elementary School in Le

Segunda Banda, 55, had a bad fall that broke her hips while her nephew, Eduardo Bonaco, 34, was affected with polio.

Some evacuees in Gogon returned to their homes after they complained of feeling sick.

Rosemarie Nubes, public health nurse II in the

Israel orders expansion of ground war in Lebanon

From page A1

British said. The Israeli military said the attack was an air strike, not from the sea.

Military shake-up

Israel's military chief appointed his deputy to oversee Israel's border in Lebanon, redefining the current commander in an unusual shake-up as Israel is expected to intensify its military campaign.

The military announced the appointment of Maj. Gen. Moshe Kaplinski in place of Maj. Gen. Udi Adam in a statement Tuesday. Israeli media linked it to appointment of Adam to oversee the ground offensive, as well as mounting public criticism of the army's handling of the conflict with Hezbollah guerrillas.

Israeli air strikes leveled a two-story building in the Bekka Valley town of Mashghara, east of Sidon, early yesterday, trapping five people from the same family under the rubble, residents said. Although the father survived with serious wounds, civil defense rescuers frantically searched for his wife and their four children. It was not immediately known whether they were alive.

Diplomatic efforts

Israeli warplanes also targeted roads and overpasses near the Lebanese-Syrian border in the northern province of Akkar in bombing runs as dawn revealed local residents reported.

Diplomatic efforts to end the fighting moved slowly, although both Israel and the United States issued positive, if lukewarm, assessments of the Lebanese government's plan to deploy 15,000 soldiers into south Lebanon after a month-and-the withdrawal of Israeli troops.

"It looks interesting and we will examine it closely," Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said. US state department spokesperson Sean McCormack said the proposal was significant, but President George W. Bush warned against hoping a resolution—which Hezbollah and its sponsors are able to secure more weapons."

Favors Israel

While Bush said a UN Security Council resolution was needed quickly, the council put off for at least one day voting on a US-French ceasefire proposal to allow time leading Arab officials to present arguments that the measure was heavily tilted in favor of Israel and did not "take Lebanon's concerns into consideration."

Both the US and French moves in the United Nations indicated there might be room for limited compromise.

Limited travel

Travel in Lebanon's south had been severely limited since early in the conflict because roads had been cut by Israeli air strikes; many civilians were killed in the south trying to flee the fighting and rescue and aid workers also were in danger.

But residents had been able to move in vehicles with relatively safety inside towns and villages in routine daily routines. Now they are feeling trapped in their homes as well as under ocean and threats of attacks. The psychological strain was sure to begin showing quickly.

Some of the fiercest ground fighting on Tuesday continued around the village of Bint Jbail, a Hezbollah stronghold that Israel has tried to capture for weeks. Four Israeli soldiers were killed there, the military said, bringing to 33 overall the number died in the fighting. Hezbollah would not confirm any deaths.

The Israeli Army said at least 160 rockets in northern Israel, most of them in and around the towns of Nahariyan, Kiryat Shmona, Maalot, Safed, Ma'ayanot and Gilad Tuesday.

47 Lebanese civilian deaths

The total number of Lebanese civilian deaths rose by 47 on Tuesday as rescue workers pulled 14 more bodies from the wreckage of two buildings in south Beirut that were hit by Israeli missiles the night before. The toll in that attack now stands at 50.

One of the most tragic stories was that of Ali Hamzy. He was badly wounded and injured with pain in the Mount Lebanon hospital near Beirut. Three of his children were dead and his only surviving son was in intensive care. He hadn't been told because doctors said they feared the 40-year-old could not stand the shock.

Hamzy was at home with his wife and four children shortly after midnight Monday when Israeli missiles slammed into their apartment building in the predominantly Shiite southern Beirut suburb of Chiah.

Half of the 30 people killed in the strike were from Hamzy's family.

Since the fighting began, at least 699 people have died on the Lebanese side of the conflict. The Israeli toll stood at 161 killed—36 civilians and 67 soldiers.

UN suspends aid delivery

The United Nations suspended attempts to send relief to southern Lebanon because of heavy shelling in the area, said Christian Berthiaume of the World Food Program in Geneva, Switzerland, though aid shipments were arriving elsewhere in the country.

"The Israeli forces were warning today, saying that there shouldn't be any vehicles in the southern part of Lebanon," the said.

"They had stopped humanitarian convoys [but] we decided not to go because there has been heavy shelling the last 24 hours." *Reports from AP and Reuters*

'Magic 7' and how bombing 'saves' 4 OFWs

From page A1

was crying, thinking she would never be able to go back to the Philippines. A soldier, she said, told her to calm down.

4th IOM mercy flight

Then a bomb exploded, the building shook, and Lebanese policemen scampered out. One yelled, "Yes, you got the target," she recounted.

The four were among 327 Filipinos, including a 7-year-old boy, who arrived yesterday afternoon at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on an Etihad Airways flight organized by the International Organization for Migration.

It was the fourth IOM mercy flight for Filipinos in Lebanon organized by the Geneva-based humanitarian group with the support of Philippine officials.

The evacuees flew for one-and-a-half hours from Beirut to Abu Dhabi, where they transferred to four other provinces before they were finally brought back to the evacuation center in Bicol," Villaverde said.

The women said they were not harmed, he recalled, but that they had no money on hand. Filled with confusion, Because they survived the ordeal, they were called the "Magic 7."

Some of the seven were finally cleared of the charges against them and were able to return to the Philippines, said Villaverde, who worked as a driver while his wife was a housemaid.

Another 1,150 OFWs are expected to arrive this week, including 200 today in a government chartered flight. Two more chartered flights each bringing home

'Magic 7'

"Word went around that from the detention center at the border, they were transferred in four other

The women said they were not harmed, he recalled, but that they had no money on hand filled with confusion. Because they survived the ordeal, they were called the "Magic 7."

Some of the seven were finally cleared of the charges against them and were able to return to the Philippines, said Villaverde, who worked as a driver while his wife was a housemaid.

Another 1,150 OFWs are expected to arrive this week, including 200 today in a government chartered flight. Two more chartered flights, each bringing home 450 OFWs, are to arrive tomorrow and on Saturday.

Heroes in Israel

Also yesterday, Labor Secretary Arturo Brion said that the Philippine Overseas Labor Office in Israel had reported that many Jewish families had expressed gratitude to OFWs for their loyalty and heroism to services in the midst of the ongoing conflict.

Brion cited the case of Avrahm Aquino, who remained in the house of an Israeli family that came under a rocket attack, killing two children and wounding a third, who asked her to take care of her mother before she lapsed into a coma.

"The trust reposed in Ms Aquino ... indicates the Filipinos' enlisted values and humanity," said Brion.

Brion also said that the family of Elma Chavez, who was killed in Tel Aviv by a mentally ill member of the household that had employed her, would receive P220,000 in insurance benefits. With a report from Jerome Aning

DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS are at work transferring medical supplies by land and by hand across the Litani River north of the port city of Tyre in southern Lebanon. The only road linking the river and Tyre was destroyed by Israeli bombardment.

zone

NPA attacks soldiers near Mayon

ing keeps watch over the family meal at the
ngapal.

Sto. Domingo Rural Health Unit, said most of the 10 persons they had documented as late Sunday were upper respiratory tract infections like cough and colds while others suffered from diarrhea and fever.

She acknowledged that the local government did not have enough supplies to sustain medical services for the evacuees.

3 out of 10 Filipinos want to leave RP

From page A1

possibility of doing so, the results showed. A slightly bigger number (37 percent) said they would stay in the country.

The survey was conducted from June 24 to July 8, using face-to-face interviews with a multistage probability sample of 1,200 Filipino adults aged 18 years old and above. It had a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level.

10 percent

A total of 8 million Filipinos, or 10 percent of the country's population, either live or work abroad.

As of December 2004, nearly 5.2 million Filipinos were permanently residing abroad, according to the Commission on Filipinos Overseas.

While most of the country's migrant workers are deployed in the Middle East, nearly 2.1 million Filipinos, immigrants, or legal permanent residents abroad whose stay does not depend on work contracts, are in the United States alone.

Levels of uncertainty regarding migration increased 6 percentage points from 26 percent in March, while the number of respondents who reported migration also decreased by 6 percentage points from 43 percent, according to the Pulse Asia survey.

Indecisive

In July last year, the sentiment against migration was shared by more than half of Filipinos (52 percent), higher by 15 percentage points than today's level. Indecision levels, meanwhile, increased by 11 percentage points, from 23 percent to 34 percent.

While nearly half of the respondents still believed that the country was not hopeless, the sentiment of hopefulness dropped to 49 percent from 60 percent in July last year.

Between March and July, levels of hopefulness nationwide dropped 9 percentage points, from 59 percent four months ago. But the number of those who supported that the country was hopeless increased 10 percentage points in a year, from 11 percent in July 2005.

A few in control

The survey also showed that while few Filipinos believed that democratic governance was existing in the country, four out of 10 Filipinos (40 percent) acknowledged that the country was under the control of a powerful few and that ordinary citizens could not do anything about it.

The belief is strongest in Metro Manila (55 percent) and in socioeconomic Classes A, B and C (48 percent).

Half of the respondents (50 percent) reject martial law as a solution to the country's urgent problems, the survey showed. Public disagreement against its imposition dropped 9 percentage points from March and 17 percentage points from July last year.

Uncertainty levels, on the other hand, increased 10 points, from 14 percent last year. Between March and July 2006, they increased 12 points from 20 percent to 32 percent.

The survey was conducted before hostilities in Lebanon began.

'All-out war'

Topping the hostilities as the time were the serial filing of impeachment complaints against President Macapagal-Arroyo, her declaration of "all-out war" on communist rebels, the abolition of the death penalty, the probable filing of impeachment charges against eleven commissioners involved in the Mega Pacific deal, and the resignation of six Supreme Court justices.

From page A1

Mt. Mayon might have vented that Mount Mayon could explode at any time but that the government is still of still more preferday could provide the final push.

"To put it in a simple way, it's like it manages a volcano," Fernando Corpuz, head of monitoring and response prediction in the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

A full moon coincided with at least three of Mount's nearly 50 explosions over the last four centuries, including the two most recent in 2000 and 2001, Corpuz said.

The seven villages have not yet told their livestock and vegetable plots despite an expanding four-story wall of scalding lava that has streamed more than 6 km from Mayon's crater. (Stories on Page A8.)

Benjamin Dupalivel, 78, said he would leave his home in the danger zone only when the volcano erupted.

"My parents told me a full moon may give an eruption and I believe them because they lived through many eruptions," said Dupalivel, who has three sons without Mayon's love in 1993.

His wife and two children have left for an evacuation center but he was staying behind to look after their chickens and pigs.

Alert level 4 in

Officials worried that a reference in guidelines for the volcano could mean something has shocked the Base inside the crater, risking the chances of an explosive eruption.

It would also mean that the volcano is just taking a brief break after a flurry of activity led authorities to raise the alert level from the current level 3 to 4, which means that an eruption was imminent.

The number of volcanic quakes yesterday morning decreased from the previous 139 to only 21 while the sulfur dioxide emissions declined from 12,743 tons per day to 7,029 tons per day.

Phivolcs reminded the public that alert level 4 was still inoffice and that the extended danger zone of 8 kilometers the summit in the southeast part should be observed.

Its aerial inspection found human activity within the 7-km permanent danger zone.

Mass evacuees could not be prevented from going back to their homes to attend to their farms and animals, while resorts would trade shelters and get additional provisions they needed at the evacuation centers.

"Governor are still present in the area and some farmers are still tending their crops," said Ariel Cajili, Office of Civil Defense Bicol director.

As of yesterday morning there were a total of 6,386 families composed of 30,004 persons evacuated from the three cities and five municipalities of Albay, which are around the volcano.

Food assistance

Cajili said total food assistance of P417,600 was extended by the local government of Legazpi City to the evacuees housed in four authorized centers in the city.

Additional families came from Barangay Upper Padang in Legazpi City and Barangays Bonot and Bonoy in Daraga.

Some 200 families of Barangay Upper Padang have joined the evacuees housed in Albay Central School.

Additional funding of P250M

Relief agencies and relatives are leaving themselves for a long stay in makeshift evacuation centers, mainly schools.

"For the time being, food is not the problem," Legazpi Mayor Noel Rosal said, but appealed for help from the national government.

The effort can be sustained until the end of the week but if the evacuees linger on for weeks it will deplete the city's calamity fund, Rosal said.

It costs about P367,000 a day to feed and house the estimated 18,000 people taking shelter in Legazpi's schools.

Rosal said he expected President Macapagal-Arroyo to announce aid from the national government when she visits the evacuees this weekend.

Mr Arroyo announced the aid yesterday. She ordered the budget department to prepare an extra P250 million in calamity fund to augment the P50 million earlier disbursed by the national government. With reports from Jean Encarnacion B., Perseus Echeverri, Aphrodite Apodaca and Gil Francis Arevalo, Inquirer Southern Luzon; AFP and AP

EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY
A Training and Development Center
ACCREDITED SINCE 1992
MANAGERIAL ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL CONTROL
ADVANCED SUPERVISORY TECHNIQUES
BUILDING AND OPERATING A SMALL BUSINESS
ADVANCED TRAINING FOR MANAGERS
TECHNIQUES OF MANAGING RECORDS CLERKS
CSC SERVICE CONFESSION
Call Telephone Numbers 521-0000 to 09

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Vol. 23 No. 263

Sneaky

LAWYER ROMULO MACALINTAL FORMALLY ASKED the Supreme Court last Monday to allow the Commission on Elections to use the 3,991 marksalled ballot-counting machines in the 2007 elections. The machines, for which the government has already paid more than P649 million, are now gathering dust in a warehouse, following the decision of the Supreme Court nullifying the contract between the Comelec and Mega Pacific eSolutions in January 2004. The Court ruled that in awarding the contract to Mega Pacific, the Comelec violated the law and its own rules. It ordered the Office of the Ombudsman to look into the liability of everyone who had a hand in the bidding and award of the contract, directed the Office of the Solicitor General to recover the money, and asked the Comelec to "refrain from implementing any other contract or agreement entered into with regard to this project."

EDITORIAL

Macalintal has argued that while the Court found some irregularity in the contract, "it did not say we cannot use the computers." The government has already paid for the computers, he said, and it should use them now "while waiting for the final verdict." Otherwise, he added, the government would have to be a loser if it fails to recover the money and allows the computers to rot unused.

In announcing his plan, Macalintal made it clear he would be filing the petition in his capacity as a taxpayer. But curiously he meant to be arguing along the same lines as Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos, who insists to this day that the Court never found anything wrong with the machines and that using those machines now would be the cheapest and quickest way to computerize the polls. Even curiouser is that Malacañang officials jumped quickly to endorse the proposal of Macalintal, who is also President Macapagal-Arroyo's election lawyer. Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said that because of the Mega Pacific computers would once-the-country closer to achieving one item in the President's 10-point agenda: the automation of the elections. All three acted that Science Secretary Estrella Alabastro has certified that the machines are "100-percent reliable and accurate." And Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor pointed out that then Chief Justice Hilario Davide found nothing wrong with the use of the machines.

What Davide actually said in his dissenting opinion—which Abalos keeps telling anyone who cares to listen—was that there was "no suggestion that graft and corruption attended the bidding process." But unfortunately for Abalos and the other officials involved in the transaction, Davide was not the Davide Court, and in this case the Chief Justice's opinion was not shared by the majority.

And what were the key findings of the majority? One, was that the Comelec awarded the contract "not only in violation of the law and jurisprudence, but also in reckless disregard of its own bidding rules and procedures." Two, was that the machines failed eight critical tests, including the standard of accuracy set by the Comelec, the ability to detect election results previously downloaded, and the capacity to print "audit trails of the count and canvass." The Court went on to warn that if those machines were to be used, the names faced "the grim prospect of election fraud on a massive scale by means of just a few strokes."

Not long after the Court came down with its ruling and its order to prosecute—it was after everyone responsible for the scam, it reaffirmed its decision by throwing out a petition for reconsideration. And that should have been the end of the case.

So what is Malacañang, with obvious encouragement from Malacañang, trying to do? It seems that after realizing that the main door is shut tight, he wants to sneak through the backdoor to clean up the mess using, as his lawyer, pawnbroker, expediteur and the need to make next year's elections clean and honest. If he can persuade the Court to let the Comelec use those machines, the case against Mega Pacific and the Comelec crumbles. Then it would be pointless for the government to try to get back what it has paid to Mega Pacific and it would be very difficult to prove that Abalos and company had approved a deal that was disadvantageous to the government. And then, of course, the Supreme Court would find itself saving its own words and effectively rewriting its own order directing investigating agencies to pursue the case.

Publisher **Isaac Tiglao**

Editor-in-Chief **Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc**

Managing Editor **Joe Ma. D. Rosales**

Associate Editor **Melanio C. Mendoza**

Assistant Editors for Special Projects **Rosalie A. Gonzalez** and

News Editor **Antonio T. Enriquez Jr.** • Chief, News Day Desk **Neal G. Pacelon**

Editorial Editor **Juan V. Arcega**

Editorial Writer **Francisco S. Tatad Jr.**

Senior Desk Editor **Jose F. Sonido Jr.**

Editor at Literature **Antonio Enriquez**

Chief Photographer **Boy C. Cabrera** Jr.

Art & Design Director **Grace A. Velasco**

Board of Chairman **Hiram R. Pueblo**

President **Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez**

Executive Vice President **Irene G. Nuyda**

Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **Rhoel G. Romero**

Vice President for Finance **Ruth K. Guape**

Vice President for Human Resources **Jesse Irene B. Tiu**

Business Advisor **Lorna Kalaw Tirol**

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the publisher, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical reviews and certain other noncommercial uses permitted by copyright law.

Other yardstick

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

NOTHING BARES THE RACKLES OF FOUL-cists more than the cash-crammed Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA). They argue about who gets more IRAs...and how. But few work by this yardstick: "To whom more is given, more is required."

Take out the shares of provinces, cities and towns from the national taxes collected. The IRA pool is a hefty piece. Last year, it was P211.6 billion. Mangudanao, Cebu, Negros Occidental, Bulacan got substantial slabs. The impossibles: Quezon, Davao and Manila.

Today, 65 provinces of every 5,021 tax peso come from IRAs. They keep the poverty-united dysnumerous. Region in Muslim Mindanao subsist as they do with Luzon and 8586 class towns: from Bacoors to Tuwi Tuwi.

The Department and Local Government Code stipulates that each in the title must be divided, whereby the poorest Municipalities benefit most. But there's "no such luck."

Various provisions suspended, delayed or trimmed IRA releases. A code crunch forced the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap) to agree to a "drastic deformation" of the 50 allowance just last year.

Sen. Franklin Drilon has mauled into this IRA struggle. He would cobble new parameters for the IRAs' automatic release. Local officials should not have to "beg like mendicants."

Hasty go-beyond. Before does one carry-in our approach. "A carrot-and-stick approach is necessary to maintain LGUs, specially in our rate delivery and poverty reduction," noted operations in the 2006 Local Development Bank conference on "Performance Measurement Systems."

The suggestion was based on a survey of 36 cities, 26 towns in 11 regions. Five the IRA bone from their present hand-out mold, the performance criteria." No action, so shelved.

"Shifting targets with specific time frames will push LGUs to effectively reflect their use," the ADB report said. "This would make LGUs more financially independent rather than highly dependent on central government transfers."

Many LGUs treat IRAs as a crutch. For in good times as a tool to enable them to reinforce their local tax base.

Nationwide, only 13 percent, or P213.8 billion, was raised from real estate taxes, the GOA reports. Significantly, the no-needs land netted only 49.000 billion. The landed elite, who eat in LGUs, aren't asked to tax themselves.

"Local governments must IRA as [sic] an unconditional debt," an earlier United Nations study points out. "And, there's need to reverse this trend" toward embedded beggary.

Dolos Cuneta panels had develop. nuts...which means collecting human chicken—results from policies that tap local resources and people's participation.

Local revenue should, in fact, be higher than the IRAs. "In the United States, revenues [expenses local and national governments is 50-50," LDI suggests. "In the long run, LGUs should raise for at least a 70: to 30 ratio. Local taxes [should be] the cornerstone."

Since Ulap lacks performance yardsticks, a good one of the money pool remains iron-sounds hard.

The "Governor Development Fund," for example, is most interested for former basic human needs: potable water, sanitation, preventive health care, nutrition, etc.

But officials of Davao Oriental's Assignation Pandanggan and Pasanggan town in Cebu, hailed "financial milestones" for their achievements. Mayor Tomas Osmeña's barangay leaders lauche themselves high-powered memory, dies and headgear. Bagiuio spent over P1 million for air conditioners.

Today the more brazen means of funds are thinly disguised projects, local officials go on an all-expense paid "cabbies And," now even plies reports. Mandaluyan City Mayor Theodoro Dennis, hailed by officials as "Congress Island" he a three-day "strategic planning confe-rence." The cost: P700,000.

The Catholic Social Action Secretariat has scattering-out for 10 barangays in 27 diocese are unfavorable. They assess the use of the 20-percent development funds. Some barangay officials used [illegible] funds for "observances of opposition" trips," it reported. Mechanical allowances, by simply "increasing land area or population, could rig the Internal Revenue Allotment's computation ... A community has the right to know how funds were used. Officials need be mandated to report their IRA and its usage."

Naga mayor and Bikaynon member Jesse Robredo, publishes the city's budget and uses macro. He posts them on the Internet. In even more, many LGUs hold conclusions of performance indicators close to their chests...the ADB conveyance participants noted. "There are in sound management tools ... and would not necessarily be disseminated to the public."

Filed for the 11th Congress by Benito Cayabyab, Hence Bill 7843 is a "fairly innovative" approach, the ADB said. It can surprise with openness. A time frames for achieving them. Incentives go to those who different penalties are clamped on those who fail.

There's no such thing as a free lunch. For starters, not LGUs to choose the color of their noses on the 50 state. They must "put up equity to the grant," the ADB said. Is the kinds—and how much.

Principalized cash advances drawn by officials are a perennial problem. How about doubling the LGUs an amount equal to what their deadbeat officials owe us?

Officials are penalized for using IRAs to pad their allowances. The then Gov. Lee presidents confirm all interest decisions.

More telling are the human development rankings. The UNDP's Human Development Report. The UGA that make demonstrable progress in curbing malnutrition, providing safe water, improving health services and expanding basic education should be rewarded. Those who show progress in people should be damned.

"To Cesar what's Cesar's is given, more is required." If the LGUs mean larger IRA slabs, they must prove that they deliver. Otherwise, never, ever to repeat one: "Whoever captains the palace captains the only government there is."

E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph

Foulness

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY EDUARDO ERMITA scrubs confirmation. "If they think they want to bring us to court again, we are prepared for them." That was what he said in defiance of the Supreme Court's order to several government officials, chief of them Comelec boss, to appear before the senate to explain what they were doing with DPW money. All Senate Richies, the Philippine ambassador to Lebanon, had contributed a couple of weeks ago that the senate powerless to aid the fleeing overseas Filipino workers because he had no money. Which prompted everyone, including the Senate, to refine the question that rose from the mouth of Fr. Ignatio Ashwanda, the Filipino priest in Iraq: Where have all the DPW billions gone?

So far we have heard about father Ashwanda doing everything in his power to get relief goods from the Red Cross and other relief agencies to feed the hordes that has flocked to his door. So far we have heard about a Greek tycoon who is so thankful to Filipinos for having helped him build a hotel one in shipping he wants to help them any way he can. So far we have heard about the OFWs themselves, most by women, mostly maids, by dint of luck and daring, escaping from their employers who inflicted to let them go, climbing down floors and climbing up walls, hiding in bushes and kitchens and the like. We have heard they are traumatized.

So far, all we've heard from government is that it sent $150,000 to our embassy in Lebanon. And that was four days after Richies complained that there was good but he needed cash. Cash might not have been enough, it might not even have been. But it showed haste. Which brings us back to the question: Where have all the DPW billions gone?

In this window responsibility, the Senate asked the Senate to defer the hearing on the Davao fund, he said, because the officials the Senate wanted to question were busy with the relief effort.

Like how? How many people do you need to carry out the relief effort? What can you do in the coffee shops of hotel lobbies in Metro Manila to carry out the relief effort in Lebanon? Unless Ermita's proposition if we actually see Labor Secretary Arturo Brion, Davao Administrator Bienvenido Bagas, Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya, Barangay Undersecretary Carlito Galvez Jr., POEA Administrator Rex Librada Baldoz and Palace Undersecretary Ricardo Blancaflor sending through the halls of Medicilab looking for OFWs to rescue, while bombs fall all around them and bullets zip by their sides. Which is why, I'll bet, Senator Pimentel's proposition if the entire Cabinet, three-fourths of the House of Representatives and their boss in Malacañang—the rest who did not win the elections—were shipped off to Lebanon to reinforce the operation. They would have little carrying out a relief effort they would be giving monumental relief to their countrymen, at home or abroad.

In fact, until he has completed of not getting any money until Father Ashwanda asked where the DPW billions were, and until the Senate refused his try all or one of the relief effort being frustrated by those same governmental officials came in the form of the advice: "Go back to DOF [the Department of Finance]! Ask the DPWs who stood to be turned into a permanent feature of the wasted land badly thought of it.

It seems Senator, in fact, is the only person in government officials would let their asses in rescue the people whose end is rescuing their country. A Senate hearing is the only guarantee the money the DPWs raised with their blood, sweat and tears—for many a fortune to lose—will go to them in their hour of need instead to relief to his hour of greed.

In the end, Executive Secretary Ermita ex-

sales neither confidence nor responsibility, he merely exudes foulness. At the very least that is so because he uses the OFWs as explanation for where their money went. He's known where part of it went: to the Senate. Officials can finally count solely for OFWs went to: Officials in campaign for GMA in the last elections. That is so notwithstanding Philippines reported claims they got the checks only after the elections. As Senator Jinggoy Estrada said, saying that the transfer "will bear significantly on 2004 elections." GMA executive order transferring the funds, and the DOLE's approval, all done before the elections, supply the motive, opportunity and means for the crime.

What's there's stinks, there's fire. Where there is this theft there is no other word for it), there will be more. Who cares if Davao officials swore like a maniac that the OFW billions are mine? Insane for others? It can't come as a surprise to a depositor that his money is in the bank but he can't touch it—ever. Government officials continue to steal the banks, and the OFWs may safely assume that their billions have been stolen from them. And rape, rape, against the dying of this light.

At the very least, what is Ermita saying? That Bahrain Antonio Tobias is not above the law and may be punished for giving refuge to those who had GMA in mind may be punished for giving sanctuary to rapists and blackguards? Didn't GMA just say in her State that the sentences to today's killings should step forward so that she could stop the runaway murders, which is the law of the land? And rape, rape, the—that's truly runaway in this country? Surely my dear Makati and Ilo, you know that there are witnesses aplenty to some of the most heinous crimes ever committed in this country. And that they are hiding behind the sycophants of Malacañang or indeed under your beds?

Frankly, I don't know why the citizens, the OFWs or the forefront of theirs, shouldn't fight for the Malacañang weren't accused for your money? Therefore, you are here. I really hope Malacañang would summon me for advocating that. I won't oppose.

'Delicadeza'

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cassayre

FEDERICO MAGSAYSAY RETIRED THE dictate of sanitary fumigation for Charter change (Cha-cha) when he declared yesterday the resolute capitol Filipinos do not have. Right here, however, with the House of Representatives and the Senate gridlocked over the issue of convening as a constituent assembly, the people's opinion is the only way to unlock the clutches. This lends of dislodging the Chacha, however, has been stalled in the second districts of Makati to over 200 signatures/ declines above the minimal, local government officials said NCDA. Any Makati resident may file a petition under number of signatures required by the Constitution. Tending animal. At sidebars, the legislators have been recollective local Colombo legislation in all the regions, except the second district, formerly third district, according to Sigaw ng Bayan. There, Aloysius Aquino Sing's handsome face succeeded in blocking the verification of signatures by making sure that every signature appeared to read his own name a week and by allegedly harassing signatories to withdraw among other names.

* * *

Holding the nation's emergency hostage as Binay and his leaders are doing, is really sad and deplorable. But it also reminds one side of the people's inclusive that is seldom seen. We have never been the unrelated signature campaign to stop my mind by and just more signatures. Perhaps we have to ask: If the Constitution requires the entire nation to be involved in gathering the signatures for this initiative, should Cha-cha be limited only to the "constituencies," "senatorial constituencies," as those who are against it now argue? As Speaker Jose de Venecia, (about Cha), yesterday called to his home province of Pangasinan's 6th district, Rep. Amado T. Espino's home/administrative stay history for over three days to "consult" with his constituents. Why can't other lawmakers do the same? Is it because they are afraid to see how unpopular they are in their districts?

* * *

The election of former Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin as one of two "independent observers" of the Peruna board is understandably controversial. She and future officials have acted to keep politics out of it. But it's common knowledge that the Pinoy-friendly numbers each and every appointment to a government post, no matter how low. Thus, Mrs. Arroyo's election to the government's crown jewel (40 percent owned, through the Philippine Nation Oil Company) will be perceived as a lollipop to retain her employment for her 20 years.

By her admission, Boncodin was elected to help settle Peruna's fiscal problem, a job for which she's more than qualified. But the fact that she was "handpicked" to the board by the whole Malacañang administration, who was himself handpicked by the Board for the position, could never have happened without Peruna's approval.

There are, however, those who could not have accepted the post in all truthfulness and principle. She was seven as conference as Cindy Feliciano or Greg Domingo in attacking GRIA, into the certainly different threat to penalize her for credibility as every domestic/Filipino a more valuable client for the Democratic members either after every meeting, and at least a million peso bonus at the end of every year.

* * *

The officials involved in the evacuations of DFA's now entitles it's no easy and expensive as send the two small Coast Guard ships to Lebanon. Those could be hit no more expensive would be real clumsy and leave them subject to the Indian Ocean. The war between and demonstration above would be enormous, as Philippine Airlines (which no longer flies the Middle East) would have to cancel its flights as an DFA evacuations mission out of Emmanuel Island can. For an airline that is just recovering

from its "Chernobyl on runway worker."

Hell, we don't sell cheap overseas contract workers (OCWs) anymore. We have skilled overseas Filipino workers (OFWs). Frankly, I don't know when, how or why the change happened or who designed it. One day, we just found ourselves saying OFW. I'll bet you those terms' name received many ad-vertising and public relations (PR) studies/reports to help us adopt them. Capt. Miguel Santos). That historic-sounding work (it) known as it had to make refueling stops in Guam, Wake Island, the Johnston Atoll and Honolulu before reaching its new home, Cubbiao, California. The flight alone have been very uncomfortable with the plane's "military-used/quainted" and Soviet-made.

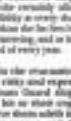
Even after-words, PAL launched regular flights between Manila and Los Angeles, it still flew there the DP-10 route, which Lee Hogan says drove us, has always been its most-scenic route.

At the anniversary party, I chanted briefly with PAL president Jesus Varela, who said that airline is doing fine. It has restructured to some routes that is closed some years back, such as Beijing, and no promotions are going out for some flights as Iloilo. When Asian Spirit, Zest Air and SEA had to fold up, for-mer pilots and to assuming the profitability of future routes.

Accidental heroes, reluctant exiles

HUMAN FACE

Mrs. Coreen P. Dayan



THE ARMED CONFLICT GOING ON BETWEEN Israel and the Hezbollah in Lebanon that is forcing thousands of war-tired overseas Filipino workers to go home, and for those who are staying, one week, hours and now are the end? OFW nightmares-are-made of.

I couldn't help thinking of the many pan-cities in this part of the world that OFWs have had to flee from, or are fleeing from, in the past years. Whether stories on OFWs that same are in the in-genius, the human interest stories particularly, and the photos too, they would fill several volumes. This has been going on for the last 30 days now, if the way the media has been publishing the reports does.) The stories would have just a lot of relevant national history. As they are, they would also be interesting stories—courtesy, dramatic, heartrending, etc. (not to mention, sometimes, funny). The stories would certainly look upon those stories with amazement—at how their survivors survived hardships in hostile lands in order to give them the sweetness a sweet life.

I have met some of the many OFW workers I have written about the years. There was this Filipina domestic helper (DH) in Kuwait who talked her employer (called pakiam) while their were vacationing in Cairo, and her 20 (One) it up in another city in Kuwait (Cairo). Another was a Filipina who had been battered by her husband and children left behind by the woman in their lives, married to helping OFWs. This one whole. Recently, I wrote about the 10 Filipino who work aboard a luxury cruise ship.

The stories of the many OFWs I have been

Dictatorship is back in RP

I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT HISTORY repeats itself and I also believe now that dictatorship is back in the Philippines.

Innocent people are being arrested left and right without even the prescribed warrants and are being kept incognito, tortured and forced to tell lies. This reminds the citizenry of the MIG (Military intelligence and Security Group) during the Marcos dictatorship. The abduction and salvaging of innocent civilians [must cease] as it is cruel as well. Similar to [the] Marcos dictatorship, [the] Arroyo administration is [the] violator of the human rights of children and their families for all roles in the ongoing violence in Cota, Isabela and Quezon.

The psychology of war and peace clearly indicates that continued violence in the Middle East is likely to lead to [a] never-ending cycle of violence. For those reasons, as immediate ceasefire is needed to maintain normalcy. A cessation of violence now will open new options by which all parties to the conflict can address the underlying problems in a more effective, non-violent ways.

—Dr. Ma. El Lingson, and President George W. Bush to cease every effort in the United Nations and in every other possible public and private forum to secure an immediate ceasefire participated in by all sides.

ROBERTA L. GRIFFO,
member, Psychologists for Social Responsibility
1100 River St., Unit 3 Fmd.
H. 367-6453

LETTERS

Where stands RP on Suu Kyi's case?

ACCORDING TO THE MONCHIC of Press, the Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra has just given to Burma with a high-level government delegation and urged the ruling military junta to release Aung San Suu Kyi. This is an issue the Burmese generals have always declared as off-limits to their Asian neighbors, insisting that it is an "internal affair." But because not only the Thais but also the Malaysians and Singaporeans have been exerting pressure on Burma, the generals apparently now feel the heat because they are setting they're thinking about releasing Suu Kyi. But as usual, would not say if or when).

All this makes one wonder why I've never heard President Macapagal-Arroyo speak out, as an act of statehood, to press for the release of this courageous Burmese lady who has spent most of the past 17 years in detention, most now of the repressive junta that has ruled Burma since 1988.

Suu Kyi's "crime," as the world knows, is having overwhelmingly won, along with her National League for Democracy, the 1990 elections in Burma. Refusing to relinquish power, the generals ever since have made life hell, not just for Suu Kyi and her NLD but also for the Burmese people who have been under military dictatorship since 1962. Like Nelson Baron's wife dictator, the Burmese leaders have killed their people's longing and love freedom.

As President Arroyo is engrossed in political problems that she cannot speak out on behalf of the cannot speak out on behalf of Asian leader? Where else or her foreign secretary attend meetings of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, why don't we hear any word of censure from the Philippine delegation for the Burmese regime which has stained the world's conscience? As the first Asian nation to gain independence, how can Filipinos hold their heads up proudly if we is more an oppressed neighbor?

While Burma's countries have the power to impose sanctions against brutal regimes, the Philippines, though a poor country, can employ other means, like words of support, to remind ourselves and everyone else that the Filipino nation is part of the freedom-loving human family.

—ISABEL T. ESCOBAL
isabelescoba@yahoo.com

Where stands RP on Suu Kyi's case?

ACCORDING TO THE MONCHIC of Press, the Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra has just gone to Burma with a high-level government delegation and urged the ruling military junta to release Aung San Suu Kyi. This is an issue the Burmese generals have always declared as off-limits to their Asian neighbors, insisting that it is an "internal affair." But because not only the Thais but also the Malaysians and Singaporeans have been exerting pressure on Burma, the generals apparently now feel the heat because they are setting they're thinking about releasing Suu Kyi. But as usual, would not say if or when).

All this makes one wonder why I've never heard President Macapagal-Arroyo speak out, as an act of statehood, to press for the release of this courageous Burmese lady who has spent most of the past 17 years in detention, most now of the repressive junta that has ruled Burma since 1988.

Suu Kyi's "crime," as the world knows, is having overwhelmingly won, along with her National League for Democracy, the 1990 elections in Burma. Refusing to relinquish power, the generals ever since have made life hell, not just for Suu Kyi and her NLD but also for the Burmese people who have been under military dictatorship since 1962. Like Nelson Baron's wife dictator, the Burmese leaders have killed their people's longing and love freedom.

As President Arroyo is engrossed in political problems that she cannot speak out on behalf of Asian leader? Where else or her foreign secretary attend meetings of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, why don't we hear any word of censure from the Filipino delegation for the Burmese regime which has stained the world's conscience? As the first Asian nation to gain independence, how can Filipinos hold their heads up proudly if we is more an oppressed neighbor?

While Burma's countries have the power to impose sanctions against brutal regimes, the Philippines, though a poor country, can employ other means, like words of support, to remind ourselves and everyone else that the Filipino nation is part of the freedom-loving human family.

—ISABEL T. ESCOBAL
isabelescoba@yahoo.com

Lapses in judgment reflect GMA's poor health

FOR MILLIONS OF CONCERNED Filipinos, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's poor health is reflected in her frequent lapses in judgment and service omissions when it comes to the very few.

In her last State, she said, "The economic farmers deserve a portion of the peace dividend. I [invite] Congress and the Makapaz Claims Patron Banner Farmers Limited Cooperative (MAPAPALICO) led by bishop[sic] Fernando Capalla to help create a three eighth[sic] shares."

"Peace dividend" in the eyes of very hardly. In her 2005 State, she proudly declared: "We made it [a] step institutionalizing [a] polyarchy as [a] [a] [a]

Across the NATION

Chavit hand seen in Poro port takeover

By Tonyton Ongjoco
Inquirer Central Luzon
and Yolanda Zarate-Fuertes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—ILOCOS SUR Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, a close political ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo, is the interested party behind the takeover by the Philippine Ports Authority of the Port of San Fernando in Poro Point, La Union, last week, Inquirer sources said.

The sources, a former official of the Bases Conversion Development Authority and a Bases official, said the port was the "first thing that (the ally) asked of the President early on his term (in 2001)."

The President, according to the sources, gave direct orders to BCDA chair Narciso Abaya to launch the takeover last despite a court order stopping the government from doing so.

Former BCDA chair Rogelio Singson was "found out" of the agency in February 2002 because he balked at delivering his pasasalamat to get the port from the private bulk handling firm, the Poro Point Industrial Corp. (PPIC), the sources said.

Very handy

Singson, according to the sources, found it "very handy" to get the port because of his "importations."

Florencio Bulseco, Singson's accountant, was given the same assignment but did not succeed.

The source said this was because the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC) would not act favorably on several applications advising the BCDA that it had no valid basis to take over the seaport.

The present board, the source said, used a "flimsy reason," which was to cite the lack of an environmental compliance certificate (ECC) by the PPIC from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, as basis for the takeover.

Fidedelio Singson Bejar, chair of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, is a relative of the governor.

Singson ties

Several directors at the PPMC are relatives or employees of Singson, who was instrumental in the installation of Ma Aurora as President in 2001 when he blew the whistle on ex-President Joseph Estrada's alleged corruption.

Bejar and Abaya were "assigned" by the President recently to ensure that the ally got the port, the source said.

"What (Chavit) wants, he gets," the source said (to point out how PPIC lost the contract despite a recent OGCC opinion and a temporary restraining order from the court).

The Inquirer tried to reach Singson for comment. His staffer, Jenny Macaraig, said the governor was not in his way to Manila and would issue a statement on the controversy.

Macaraig, however, quoted the governor as saying that the port was taken over because of losses incurred by the PPIC.

The statement on him being behind the takeover of the port, however, has not arrived as of 5 p.m. yesterday.

Abaya, in a phone interview on Wednesday, denied he was acting in the interest of Singson.

No orders

He said he did not receive instructions from the President about helping Singson gain control of the port. He said he has not met or talked to Singson.

"That's not true. Walang ka-bello (He gave no orders)," Abaya said.

According to Abaya, the issue in this case was that the PPIC's violation of environmental laws.

In San Fernando City, councilor Bejar, the seaport unloaded their cargo starting Tuesday at terminal after the 39th terminal control over the port.

But Alberto Mangaoang Jr., PPA port manager, said port operations are still in their normal.

The PPIC, which pays the government P50 million a year in upgrades the port, also tried to send 40 security men and workers to the area but Mangaoang said he was able to talk to them out of their plan. But in the afternoon, PPIC workers again barricaded the piers, he said.

"They are disrupting the smooth operations of the port but we are trying our best to contain the movement," he said.

Boto Wenceslao, port manager of the PPIC, said the company would elaborate all legal means so it could continue to operate the port.

Flimsy excuse

"We have a 25-year contract. Just because we lacked the ECC should not be a reason to cancel the contract," Wenceslao said.

In a statement, the PPIC called on the BCDA and PPMC to respect the temporary restraining order issued by Dist. Judge Fernando City Regional Trial Court stopping the ugliest from a forcible takeover of the port and bulk terminal.

The PPIC issued the call amid what it called an apparent refusal by BCDA and PPMC officials "to restrain and maintain the status quo as the suspect facility."

PPIC lawyer Brigido Dulay said it is important for BCDA and PPMC officials "to respect the court order to prevent the further escalation of tension in Poro Point."

"This is a mere business conflict which is now pending in the court," Dulay said in the statement.

"We call on (Abaya) to observe legal and peaceful means and allow sobriety to guide the resolution of the current standoff at Poro Point," he said.

SECURITY forces of the PPA scuffle with port workers as the PPA starts to take over port operations at Poro Point allegedly at the request of Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Palace sees no wrong on Singsons in Poro Pt. port

By Ed Cabuenagan Jr.

MALACAÑANG WILL REVIEW the recent takeover of the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) of the Poro Point Management Corp. in La Union amid reports that this move was masterminded by Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson.

"We will look into that," said Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita when asked to comment on reports that the PPA, upon the prodding of the Bases Conversion Development Authority, forcibly took over the 86-hectare port and industrial complex from Poro Point Industrial Corp. (PPIC) last Monday.

The PPIC, which has a five-25-year contract to run the port and the bulk terminal facility and to undertake with its annual lease payments, is opposing the takeover as illegal because it was issued solely on an oral-to-do-so order from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The DENR had acted on a complaint by San Fernando Mayor Mary Jane Ortega about the waste discharges from the port to her town's bay area and found out that PPIC had been operating without an environment compliance certificate since 1999.

The PPIC had obtained a temporary restraining order from the San Fernando City Regional Trial Court last Monday but the PPA refused to budge raising rumors of a violent ending to the standoff.

Ermita said he was not aware that both BCDA and PPMC had candidates of Singson on their boards but he defended the President's choices. "The appointees of the President are based on their qualifications but this is not without saying that a fellow such as Governor Singson would not have the opportunity to recommend his own people," said Ermita.

Singson himself called the issuance to refute these allegations as he claimed that the BCDA was merely correcting PPIC's "lop-sided" contract forged during the Estrada administration where it was allowed to lease the complex for a minimum of 950 million a year.

The takeover was criticized by some La Union officials.

Ramon Landeseo, San Fernando City councilor, said in a privilege speech in the council that the takeover was a serious transgression and a disfavor of the regional trial court of the city.

36 houses destroyed in twister

COMPOSTELA CITY—AT LEAST 36 houses were destroyed when a twister descended from the fishing village of Limon to Bonga Island in Panay, Mindanao on Tuesday afternoon, police said.

But Panay Vice Mayor Adrian Bryan said no casualty was reported in the aftermath of the tornado.

He said Bonga Island, which is about two nautical miles from the mainland, is vulnerable to strong winds because it faces the open sea in the Moro Gulf.

He said in the past, similar incidents have also occurred on the island.

Bryan said about 200 people fled their homes because of fear and that they were now staying in evacuation centers.

"Our relief efforts are being hampered by huge waves and gloomy weather," Bryan said.

Because of the inclement weather, no other areas of Panay were immediately accessible to the island, according to Bryan.

Similarly, many areas in Central Mindanao continued to experience floods.

Since last week, at least seven people were confirmed killed when waters from a swollen river in Midsalip, North Cotabato province swept away houses and a car.

The traffic from Davao to Cotabato City was also briefly cut when floodwaters dug up the approach of the Sulaimbao bridge, also in Midsalip.

"Continuous rains for several days have also caused the overflowing of the Rio Grande de Mindanao and its tributaries," Jim Sampulna, environment director for Central Mindanao said.

Sampulna said the high areas of Pigcawayan, Libungan, Midsayap, Pikit and Aleosan, also in North Cotabato, were now submerged in water deep waters.

Floodwaters, he said, have also submerged its main dyke but the actual damage has yet to be ascertained.

Cotabato City Mayor Muslimin Sema has suspended classes in the city proper as heavy rain continued to pour. Elizelle C. Cortaso, Inquirer Mindanao

WOMEN WARRIORS Rampaging women in Sulawesi, Sulu open their doors to pave the way for military operations against members of the Abu Sayyaf and Indonesian terrorists that are hiding in Sulu province.

Dumaguete folk launch campaign against crimes

By Alex Pal and Rory Aranzado
Inquirer Visayas

DUMAGUETE CITY—"FIGHT crime, not each other."

"Pero sa ato ang labot sa 'to." (This fight is for you.)

"Tanan na aabot na ang krimen ay dapat na ihinto." (Enough is enough. Stop crime.)

These were just some of the slogans paraded around Dumaguete on Tuesday as local government units and students launched a province-wide anti-criminality campaign.

The parade was held amid increasing incidences reported by typhoon-laden and fears that the activity proceeded as scheduled, as local chief executives led by Gov. George Arnaiz, Dumaguete Mayor Agustin Alcobilla and other municipal and city mayors led the nearly 10,000 crowd around the city streets.

The parade, which started at the City Hall, ended at the Luneta Park where Marian Sports and Cultural Center at the capitol area, where a short program was held, followed by the mass destruction of illegal gambling paraphernalia, paraphernalia, DJOs, bladed weapons and many and unnecessary firearms.

Top officials or representatives from the different local government units, the Philippine National Police, academe, business community, labor sectors, religious groups, civil society and the media also signed a manifesto indicating their commitment to the campaign.

"It is time to put a halt to this

tension disrupted of lives and properties in our city and province ... We commit ourselves, our talents and abilities, our resources and energies to wage an effective and sustainable campaign against criminality," said the manifesto.

Arnaiz, in his speech, said the efforts of local officials to aggressively push the province in become a tourist and investment destination would become fruitless because nobody would like to invest or visit a place where the peace and order situation is being disturbed.

The campaign was launched in a series of closed-door meetings at the provincial capitol, after many sectors in Dumaguete had expressed alarm over the recent spate of unresolved killings in the city which has been blamed on vigilante groups.

A total of six men, all suspects in various crimes ranging from murder, robbery to drug pushing, were killed in Dumaguete over the last three weeks in a similar fashion, where killers worked in pairs, used .9 mm pistols and escaped on motorcycles.

Three killings were in addition to other killings, one involving the friend of Mayor Reding last summer, which, until now, is unsolved.

Last week, a robbery claimed the lives of two policemen ambushed in the surrounding of three other police officers and a police informant in Barangay Bagtic, Mabinay, a town some 85 Km northwest of Davao.

SPO1 Edmar Arapang, Ireneo Jr. and SPO1 Edmundo Leong Danang were killed at about 7:30 p.m. of Aug. 1, along with the informant, Antonio Balcomcon, a resident of Bagtic, in the house where his hand grenade exploded as the authorities tried to wrestle the explosive from his possession.

Senior Supt. Michele Ramos Bumatay, provincial director of Negros Oriental, said the same situation in the province has not reached an alarming level but the anticrime drive was made as a result of the reports in media, which expressed alarm over the unsolved killings.

"The people here are not used to hearing of such crimes and are repulsed at these reports," Bumatay said.

JOINT EFFORT

Residents of Barangay Panlad, Dagupan City join hands as they go to the site that President Macapagal-Arroyo would visit in load groundbreaking ceremonies for the project Bridges Construction Project for Rural Development Concept Package 01. The 388-meter long Pantal Bridge is just one of 61 bridges to be constructed under the program that would be under the funding assistance of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

Aid in peril due to terror tag on group

COTABATO CITY—A RAMBO official of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and a militant leader said the US terror tag on the International Islamic Relief Organization (IIRO) was driving away vital aid for Muslims in Mindanao.

Earlier, Matthew Lussenhop, US Embassy spokesperson in Manila, said his government found that IIRO-facilitated fundraising for the al-Qaeda and its affiliated terror groups.

IIRO was established in 1979 "as a humanitarian nongovernmental organization to provide assistance to victims of natural disasters and wars all over the world."

"IIRO was also created after it was discovered that the purpose of refugees and victims were their front" according to information culled from the Internet and available local pregnancy descriptions.

It says, "The major part of IIRO's financial contributions comes from private donations in Saudi Arabia. An endowment fund (Sanabil Al-Khair) has been established to generate a stable income to finance its various activities."

Local headquarters in Jeddah, IIRO is structured into various departments according to sector needs: the Department of Legal Relief & Refugees; the Department of Health Care; the Department of Orphans & Social Welfare; the Department of Education; the Department of Agricultural Affairs; the Department of Architectural & Engineering Consultancy, and the Our Children Project.

The MNLF's project in the village also includes another component—that of providing the children of scavengers, who are the beneficiaries of the housing project, feeding and medical assistance for the school year 2005-2007.

Nenita Villaseria, associate director of the Ayala Corp., said the Ayala group is focusing its corporate social responsibility on three main areas—education, environment and entrepreneurship.

In Philippine operations were headed by Mohammad Jamal Khalifa, a brother-in-law of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden.

But Mushtaque Inma, MNLF secretary general, said the allegations should be investigated further and that economic evidence should be presented on the claims that the IIRO was the funding arm of al-Qaeda.

"The investigation is always necessary for everything. Any issues should be investigated and should be investigated in fair as possible. But while we do that, we should be careful also. We might be driving away an organization that would be doing some good to our people," Inma, also chairman of Bangsa, said.

Inma said the United States always makes allegations which could not be supported by facts. He cited the reason given by Washington for invading Iraq.

"The United States announced that they established the doctrine of mass destruction and this city was a doomsay of Jerusalem Islamiyah militants but these were not proven," he said.

Inma said he knows that the IIRO helps Muslims in Mindanao, but "this is the first time I heard that the IIRO was involved in terrorist activities."

Amirah Lidasan, chair of the Bulu Bangsamoro party-list group in Mindanao, said the IIRO aid is needed but "most funds because it spends its money on worthwhile projects in Mindanao. Andjhey Mateo, Inquirer Mindanao

Cebu school for the deaf to get computer lab

By Irene R. Sino Cruz
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—THE STUDENTS OF a public high school for the hearing impaired will soon acquire computer skills with the setting up of a computer laboratory in their school.

The computer laboratory for the First High School for the Hearing Impaired, a Department of Education-run school in Barangay Guadalupe here, is a project of the executives and staff of the Ayala group of companies and implemented through the Ayala Business Club Cebu (ABCC).

The Ayala Business Club was organized by prominent corporation among the senior executives of Ayala companies in areas where they operate. It undertakes projects for the development of neighboring communities, providing support in education, environment and other projects.

The project calls for a donation of 18 new personal computers, one-year free Internet connection through Innove Communications, teachers' training and Internet literacy for the students.

"The major goal for this support is to help the students gain information technology (IT) literacy in practical arts and prepare them for employment. While it is a serious challenge for the hearing impaired students to gain the benefits of IT education, Ayala Business Club further aims to provide opportunities for the disadvantaged high school students," ABCC president Earl Ballentine said.

Aiming skills in the use of computer and the Internet will provide an opportunity for the student to have a better future, Ballentine said.

In addition to the donation, he said, ABCC members have pledged to sustain the project through support-generating programs and activities to get other stakeholders to support the school for its other needs to increase sustainability.

The setting up of a computer laboratory is under the Enseñang Internet Literacy and Access for Students (Tilas) program and requires an investment of P300,000.

Ballentine noted that the ABCC would continue to assist other organizations focused on children by tapping the workforce to support the campaigns of the Children's Fund.

"In the more recent flood, our Ayala companies in Cebu generated about P300,000. This, in turn, went to the various participating organizations, mostly supporting children in conflict with the law and children in dysfunctional homes," he said.

Aside from Tilas and Children's Fund, ABCC is also championing the Fishing for Humanity in Metro Cebu. It has raised funds to help build houses in San Fernando, Talisay City.

"The ABCC's project in the village also includes another component—that of providing the children of scavengers, who are the beneficiaries of the housing project, feeding and medical assistance for the school year 2005-2007."

Nenita Villaseria, associate director of the Ayala Corp., said the Ayala group is focusing its corporate social responsibility on three main areas—education, environment and entrepreneurship.

3 draw life terms for mayor's murder

By Cristina Arradon
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LAOAG CITY—A JUDGE HERE on Monday sentenced to reclusion perpetua three brothers and their companion for the murder of Vintar Mayor Eleuterio Mabutas and his police escort in 2004.

Brothers Erwin and Rudolph Gani and Sonny Flores, a market vendor, were also sentenced from 12 to 20 years in jail for the wounding of Mabutas's security aide, Angelito de Leon.

Judge Charles Agudio of the regional trial court here ordered the accused, who were present during the promulgation, to pay the victims' families almost P6 million in damages.

Public Prosecutor Normelita Ramos relied heavily on the testimony of Dr Leon, who survived the 2004 ambush.

Mabutas was jogging with Dr Leon and another doctor, Epol Nestor de los Santos, in Barangay Margayo in Vintar on Oct. 31, 2004 when the accused staged the ambush.

The killings were widely suspected to have to be politically motivated as these occurred after the 2004 elections.

Agudio issued the decision in a session filled room on Monday with the families of both the victims and the accused present.

On the request of both parties, the decision was read in open court.

He barely more than an hour into the promulgation, Erwin Gani threw a cuboid water bottle at Dr Leon, hitting the latter on the face. The crated a brief commotion as the the packed courtroom.

Gani pointed at Dr Leon and remarked in Ilocano: "Liar. You are also a liar, judge."

Agudio was immediately escorted inside his chamber fearing that the accused would harm him. Policemen immediately arrested the three accused outside the courtroom.

Agudio was unperturbed as his chamber later and ordered a court staff member to complete reading the decision.

"By virtue of strength and courage, Dr Leon miraculously survived as well the harrowing gunfire... the accused committed evil," Agudio said in the decision.

Court records showed that Dr Leon was hit in the belly, causing his stomach to rupture and his internal organs to stick out, but he was able to run away from the ambush site.

He also positively identified the murder and treachery that attended the murders when Mabutas and his police escort were riddled with bullets after they fell into a canal during the first round of gunfire.

Infant formula seen cause of high baby mortality

DAVAO CITY—THE WORLD Health Organization (WHO) has warned the Philippines and other among countries with high incidence of infant mortality.

Alex Illanes, WHO consultant, said based on a study conducted by the WHO, there are about 14,000 infants dying in the Philippines each year.

And among the most unlikely culprits is infant formula.

Illanes said infant formula is the leading cause of diarrhea among children. Acute diarrhea kills 1,400 an infant in about a day or two.

14,000 deaths a year

He said about 88 percent of Filipino mothers feed their babies with infant formulas, which explains why there is a significant number of deaths attributed to commercially available milk.

"Because of the practice, there are least 14,000 infants dying each year that can be traced to formula feeding," Illanes said.

What can mom, Illanes

Illanes claimed, is that many infant formula are actually identified as "potentially life threatening."

"Some of the infant formula are not sterile product," he said.

Illanes said that infant formula-induced illnesses claim the lives of at least one million children worldwide or about 13 percent of the 10.6 million infant deaths being recorded each year.

He said because of this, health ministers from 35 countries have undertaken moves to ban advertisements aimed at promoting top beverages for infant formula.

He said the WHO has also embarked on a rigorous campaign to promote conventional breastfeeding.

But Dr. Evelyn Jean Uhan, health chief for Southern Mindanao, said the campaign could prove to be tough.

She said that while the government spends about P9.5 billion for various health programs, milk manufacturing companies spend an estimated $25 billion for product promotion alone. Dennis Jay C. Santos, Inquirer Mindanao

Loren says she feels no rancor on adopted daughter brouhaha

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—FORmer Sen. Loren Legarda said she felt "no rancor" and vowed "not to be vindictive" toward the Kapampangan people even as the provincial board on Monday took back her "honorary Kapampangan" title.

The vendetta-ridden award was presented by former(?) she made last week about alleged election cheating in Pampanga in 2004 to favor her rival, Mrs President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

In a phone interview, Legarda said it was not the people of Pampanga but "Malacañang and [the administration party Lakas] guards" that exerted "extreme political pressures" on board members.

She said the actions of "Malacañang operatives" in the 2004 elections and on the board caused her to be "cheated twice."

She said she was not embarrassed by the board's decision because in the first place, she did not solicit the award.

"They can get the plaque back. What is important is no one was the worse-off since I received from the Kapampangans. That's the most important moment," she said.

In Monday's regular session, the board went on record for three times before voting 10-1 on Resolution No. 537 that withdrew Resolution No. 468 adopting Legarda as a daughter of Pampanga.

It was in recognition of the P500 million worth of projects put up through her countryside development fund when she was senator.

Before voting, the board, presided over by Vice Governor Jeniffer Guino, heard the objections of Board Member Aurelio Bautista, Legarda's ally.

It also tackled three motions seeking to revise the "harsh language" of the privilege speech and the resolution sponsored by Board Member Wendy Cho who represents the home district of President Macapagal-Arroyo and her son, Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo.

They agreed to strike out from Cho's speech the phrases "irresponsible, malicious, commonsensible statements [by Legarda]" and "grossly ungrateful."

They retained the part of the resolution, though "Whereas, yet a re [Aug. 7], without the knowledge of the provincial board, the awarding body, Legarda] had a press conference where she made adverse and damaging pronouncements against the Kapampangan particularly casting doubts on the results of the 2004 elections which she claimed she was cheated in Pampanga and this forthcoming award of which she was earlier informed, was her 'greatest vindication.'"

According to a transcript obtained by the Inquirer, that part of the press conference showed a local reporter seeking Legarda's reactions to the statement that De Castro "won in Pampanga but ironically you are being declared as adopted daughter of Pampanga."

Legarda's reply went: "I'm not that is the greatest vindication and that is the most heartwarming welcome of the Kapampangans in me."

But on this part in the interview she said she found it "impossible" that De Castro won

LEGARDA

over her by almost 100,000 votes in Pampanga.

The official canvass obtained by the Inquirer from the Commission on Elections showed that Legarda garnered 179,725 votes while De Castro took in 172,648 votes. Bautista's count showed Legarda with 178,804 votes and De Castro with 106,047 votes.

Nothing in the transcripts showed her to be blaming the Kapampangan for the supposed poll cheating.

Cho and his nine colleagues declined getting or succumbing to pressure.

However, two of them confessed that three Lakas mayors, an adviser of a Cabinet secretary and a businessman close to Mr Arroyo met them in Clark on Thursday.

The sources said they were asked to consider withdrawing the resolution because the adoption of Legarda, who ran with the opposition, shattered the "Solid Pampanga" they envisioned. Nestor Burgos, Inquirer Central Luzon

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Florido S. Solmirano

A hundred proverbs reflect Bicol's culture

By Juan Bocanegra Jr.
Naga City

WHAT MAKES THE NEWLY published "Bidaldog" unique is that it undertakes to chronicle Bicol culture through proverbs.

Bidaldog comes on the second syllable) is a pre-colonial period instrument made of bamboo used as a beater by a male and used by chanters to summon the villagers. It is apt for the title of the 118-page book, if only to make it known that Bicol has its own set of proverbs that records strands of its cultural fabric.

The collection represents spoken Bicol in Naga City and most parts of Camarines Sur.

Witty

Sometimes witty and humorous, and at other times profound, the proverbs that author Fr. Philip Francis Bonales Rosales compiled and classified provide windows to the wisdom and values of a section of Bicolanos through generations.

Classified into three categories—moral, psychological, religious and secular—the book tries to unravel the deeper meaning of each proverb as observed in daily life.

Explained and illustrated, the collection of 100 Bicol proverbs, like in any other vernacular worldwide, expresses the perception of about and limits that matter to people based on the norms and tradition in the localities.

At local color, Rosales takes the reader to the ethnicity of the Bicolanos with the influence of religion, life cycle, and environment on the backdrop.

For example, "Kun sa lalong ka-mahog-an, puting-an sa tuyong mahalubay" (More-tan-the-merrier, well-the-fish will-get-into-your-nose) conveys wisdom in simple terms.

Some proverbs are informal and hilarious reflecting a contemporary outlook. "Sa tuneng manonggang, mangatan-an agpas (A sleeping husband loses his wake)" and "An babaying matinlod hilol, an gurang matinlod (A flirtatious woman gets caught in the proverbial tight-rope)."

Rosales has more of this kind of proverbs that include Bicol's version of mechanics that, he says, originated from Camarines. Camarinenses has "An lagad mi tabaki, nanonlod mo uyat (The wound of a man is treated by a finger-in-salt)."

Imagery

"Bidaldog" shows images that portray Bicolanos' values and wisdom. So, author has achieved a work for the body of Bicol literature and adds to the growing list that seeks to define the Bicolano identity.

But Rosales, being a priest, tends to frame his discussions with biblical passages, which could create in the readers' appreciation of the values.

It is not remote that several of these proverbs evolved from pre-colonial times when animism was the dominant world-view of the natives. Framing them from a religious viewpoint skews their original essence.

For example, in the proverb "An tawo-an pairing, dai maimong (One who is far from the burning wood will not get burned)," Rosales explained that it means that a person must avoid trouble by distancing oneself from quarrels, dissensions, misunderstanding and trouble.

But he concluded that this "may positively refer to a person who runs away from the love of God and tends to the client to him again, to get cleansed by His love."

Although the book tries to provide a framework couched in some of the proverbs, much work is needed to find their original meanings.

Language research can deconstruct the original meaning of the proverbs. Only then can Rosales unleash the universal meanings of the proverbs he has compiled.

But the compilation must be appreciated for the author's intention of documenting transcendent values as socially forgotten.

Rosales has earned two-summa cum laude honors, in 2000 when he finished his Bachelor in Sacred Theology and in 2002 when he obtained his Licentiate Maximal in Sacred Theology at the University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Sacred Theology and Graduate School, respectively.

"Bidaldog" comes out from Goldprint Publishing House in Naga City only in June.

COVER of "Bidaldog" written by Fr. Philip Francis Bonales Rosales

The *Senate has lost its purpose!*

After years of hiding from the truth, our Senators are at last facing up to what millions of Filipinos already know: the Senate is becoming a **USELESS INSTITUTION**.

During the last two regular sessions of the 13th Congress, this Senate passed ***less*** than a dozen laws. This record is the ***worst*** in our political history since 1986.

In contrast with its meager legislative output, this Senate has also conducted more congressional inquiries than any of its predecessors—**254** in all. Some of these political soap operas grabbed inordinate media attention—but achieved ***nothing*** in remedial legislation.

Regrettably, the Senate has substituted ***publicity*** for ***efficiency***.

Even an illustrious member of the chamber has spoken up to bemoan this deviation from the Senate's constitutional obligation.

The Senate "has started to lose its purpose," **Senator Edgardo J. Angara laments**. Without serious lawmaking to benefit the Filipino people, the Senate is "of no use as a legislative institution."

The Senate has become irrelevant

The sad truth is that the Senate is beyond redemption.

Over these last 70 years, our bicameral Congress—under the presidential system—has achieved too little to justify its existence.

The Senate in particular has become irrelevant. This is why we want the **SENATE ABOLISHED**, together with the House of Representatives, so that we can inaugurate—by 2007—a parliamentary government and a unicameral parliament for our country.

This is what we—the **UNION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES OF THE PHILIPPINES** and our network of 1.7 million members nationwide—***demand***.

This is what our constituencies in all our provinces, cities and municipalities ***demand***—the amendment of the 1987 Constitution, so that we as a people can sweep away the failed presidential system and start anew.

Charter Change is the solution to the failed presidential system.

Ito ang Sigaw ng ULAP!

Ito ang SIGAW NG BAYAN!

✔ ***Yes!*** **to Charter Change.**

ULAP

Visit our websites: www.sigawngbayan.com • www.sigawngbayan.net • www.sigawngbayan.org

EZ2 16 28 SUERTRES 8 7 0 FOUR DIGIT 2 1 4 5

NEWS

MEGALOTTO 6/45 4 11 34 20 38 29 ₱38,102,758.20

'Workaholic yes; alcoholic no'

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

AMBASSADOR WILLY GAA: Career officer in prime diplomatic post

WE ARE GIVING YOU AN OFFER YOU CAN'T REFUSE!

1 A MOST PRESTIGIOUS ADDRESS

Located at the heart of dynamic Makati City, the nation's financial, social, and entertainment capital. Be five minutes away from major shopping centers, offices, hotels, restaurants, and top establishments.

2 FULLY FITTED. FULLY FURNISHED. FULLY FABULOUS.

With Century's trademark fully-fitted, fully-furnished concept, luxury living starts upon turnover. No time wasted buying appliances or furniture, and no expensive interior decorators or contractors. Plus with a choice of three exceptional interior design options: Modern, Sleek, or Contemporary, you're sure to find a style that best suits your personality.

3 UNBEATABLE VALUE

Units start at P2M or as low as P12T/month with Studio, 1BR, 2BR, and 3BR units as well as breathtaking loft and stylish configurations.

grandsohomakati

You've come to a point in your career when you can finally afford life's finer things. But really... designer stilettos, nightly dinners at posh restaurants, or even that brand new executive sedan don't make for wise investments. Perhaps it's time to re-allocate some of your paycheck to a purchase that will surely appreciate and be appreciated.

Introducing Grand Soho Makati (GSM) – a 48 storey residential hi-rise from Century Properties, the same group that brought you the award-winning Essensa East Forbes. For as low as P12,000 a month, less than the amount on your monthly credit card bill, you get a fabulous Makati condo that is truly the best buy of all.

Grand Soho Makati.
It's all that you desire and more.

CENTURY PROPERTIES GROUP
We see things a century ahead.

818-9025 | 893-7050 | 0915-7002000 | www.gsmcondo.com

TAKE A SNEAK PEEK AT OUR MODEL UNITS S/F SM MEGAMALL BLDG A

GMA names career officer envoy to US

By Christine O. Avendaño

A CAREER DIPLOMAT IS PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S choice as ambassador to the world's most powerful and top diplomatic post in Washington DC.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita yesterday announced that Ambassador Willy Gaa, the current Chargé d'Affaires in Washington, is the new ambassador to the United States. He becomes the first career diplomat to be appointed ambassador to the US since Raul Rabe, who occupied the post for six years until 1990.

Gaa succeeds Albert del Rosario, a political appointee, who has resigned to return to the private sector.

Ermita was all praises for the 60-year-old Gaa, whom he described as "hardworking and very competent." He said he first met Gaa when he was a consul in the Philippine Embassy in Tripoli, Libya.

The executive secretary said the appointment of a career diplomat to Washington would make a lot of people in the Department of Foreign Affairs happy.

Asked if Gaa's being a career diplomat was one of the considerations for his appointment, Ermita said that Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo "has been fighting all along for a career official to be appointed to important posts."

But some senior DFA officials were surprised by President Arroyo's choice. One of them said that while Gaa was a good ambassador, the government had always made it a point to send "people with stature to important posts like the US."

People with stature

The DFA official pointed out the fact that **current occupants of top diplomatic** posts were people of stature and cited as example former Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon Jr., Chitrit and former Finance Secretary Eduardo Ermita (London).

"At a time when we need to stand (eyeto with people in Washington, who send an ordinary ambassador there?" said the senior DFA official, who asked not to be named.

The same DFA official said Washington was a unique posting that requires the ambassador to "entertain a lot to be effective" and "to open doors" for the country.

The official said President Arroyo may have her reasons for appointing Gaa to the top post. It had been earlier reported that Romulo was being eyed to replace Del Rosario.

Before Del Rosario, former Sen. Ernesto Maceda, a political appointee, was the ambassador to the US during administration of Joseph Estrada. Maceda replaced Rabe, the last career officer to serve as ambassador to the US. Rabe served from 1990 to 1999. The first post-Marcos ambassador to the US was the late Emmanuel Pelaez, the former vice president who was appointed by then President Corazon Aquino in 1986 and stayed for six years.

Prior to his appointment as ambassador, Gaa was charge d'affaires in Washington since July 23 this year and held the concurrent position of consul general to Los Angeles.

Previously, Gaa was ambassador to China (2003-2006), Australia (2002-2003), consul general in New York (1997-1999), minister counsellor and consul general in Libya (1991-1992), consul general in New York (1981-1985) and vice consul and consul in San Francisco (1975-1980).

Also yesterday, Ermita announced the appointment of Nestor Mantaring as the director of the National Bureau of Investigation. President Arroyo also appointed Ret. Bernardo Pascual and Jacob Jose Fernandez as undersecretaries of justice.

Alexander Padilla was named undersecretary of the Department of Health.

Aplus METRO
Editor Rose G. Cipriano
Technical Editor: Angelo Del Rosario/Inquirer 555-1300/ext 725-7000 E-mail: a_plus@inquirer.com.ph

UNDER BI'S WATCH SINCE LAST YEAR

Roldan put on hold-departure list

ROLDAN

WANG

By Leila B. Salaverria

AMID CONTINUED PROTESTS AGAINST suspect Dennis Roldan's temporary liberty, the former actor and congressman has been included in the Bureau of Immigration's hold-departure list on orders of the Department of Justice.

Roldan, whose real name is Mitchell Carnallian, was included in the hold-departure list on Aug. 3 following a July 31 directive of DOJ Secretary Raul Gonzalez. The actor is accused of masterminding the abduction of a 3-year-old Chinese-Filipino boy last year, along with another suspect, Suzette Wong, who remains at large. BI Associate Commissioner Jose Colarina signed the order on behalf of Immigration Commissioner Alipio Fernandez Jr. Roldan has been on the BI's watch list since his arrest last year.

People on the list are not necessarily barred from leaving, but their attempts to leave are reported to the BI and they may or may not be allowed to do so. But those on the hold-departure list are barred from leaving. The minute's kindly had requested him that Roldan would leave the country, but the former congressman assured the court he would not flee.

Kidnapping is a nonbailable offense but last month, Roldan was granted a P500,000 bail by Pasig City Judge Agnes Reyes-Carpio who said there was no strong evidence to prove the former actor's guilt. The DOJ protested the decision and asked Carpio to inhibit herself from the case.

Rupert Ya, the victim's father, said Roldan could perhaps convince Wong to surface. "If Roldan is really innocent, he should be able to get Wong to come back here and have the charges," he said. With Aldwin C. Bordon Jr.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Car theft** syndicate busted in QC /A18
- **New Era** suspends classes because of meningo scare /A18
- **Caloocan co-ed** found dead in home /A18

Apply directly at any of the branches in the BPI network,
for **lower monthly amortizations** that won't keep you from living life to the fullest.

Are you putting off buying a new car because it might throw off your other plans? Then get a Drive Your Dream Auto Loan. Just go straight to any branch in the BPI network for payments that are easier on the budget. With over 900 branches, there's sure to be one near you. It's no wonder BPI Family Savings Bank is the leader in car financing – we let you lead the life you want, without compromise.

BPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK

Drive your Dream

WeLoad your WeRoam Prepaid account
and keep that full-time Internet going!

WeRoam Prepaid SIM

How to WeLoad

WeRoam

METROBRIEFS

Co-ed found dead

AUTHORITIES have taken into custody the alleged boyfriend of a 20-year-college student who was found dead with multiple stab wounds inside her Caloocan City home Tuesday morning. Chief Insp. Jose Valencia identified the victim as Jennifer Cabanilla, an education student at Holy Rosary College in Santa Cruz, Laguna. Fely Cabanilla, 22, a retired office worker at the same school, said the victim's boyfriend had called up the police to report that he found Cabanilla dead in their home, a police report said. "I want her (the boyfriend) to tell me what happened to my daughter," Fely Cabanilla said. Tomasi Ferrer

Black Hawk down amid Iraq violence

BAGHDAD, IRAQ—A U.S. ARMY helicopter crashed in Iraq's western Anbar province, leaving two crew members missing and four injured, as Iraqi and U.S. reinforcements were into the capital in a bid to stem sectarian violence that has left scores dead.

In Ramadi, 55 km northwest of Baghdad, four people were killed and 20 wounded in a 20-car pile-up late Tuesday, police said. A Marine weapons and ammunition depot in the city came heavily damaged in the blast.

Four US service members were injured when the UH60 Black Hawk helicopter crashed Sunday with no people on board during a routine flight to survey the area, the US command said in a statement on Wednesday.

The four injured troops were in stable condition, and it did not appear the crash was due to hostile fire, the statement said.

The ongoing violence in Baghdad has prompted US commanders to redeploy troops through in the city. Over the past weeks, a force expected to number nearly 12,000 has been assembling here to try to take the streets back from Sunni and Shiite extremists.

A 10 statement on Tuesday said about 6,000 additional Iraqi troops were being sent to the Baghdad area, along with 2,500 soldiers of 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team and 2,000 troops from the 25 1st Armored Division, which has served as a reserve force since last November.

"We need to see this offer protect the level of violence in Baghdad that is fueling sectarianism," said Maj. Gen. J.D. Thurman, commander of the coalition forces in Baghdad, where both Sunni and Shiite militias have the high ground.

"Iraqi and US forces will help the citizens of Baghdad by reducing the violence that has plagued this city more the Samarra bombing," Thurman said. "Iraqi and Multinational 100 more Baghdad soldiers will not fail the Iraqi people."

Much of the violence has been blamed on sectarian militias that have stepped up a campaign of tit-for-tat killings since the Feb. 22 bombing of a Shiite shrine in the northern city of Samarra.

Some of the sectarian violence has already been seen patrolling a mostly Sunni neighborhood in western Baghdad, scene of heated confrontations between Sunni and Shiite protesters.

Many of the militias espouse ide for sectarian violence are linked to political parties that are part of Nuri Khamis' Nouri al-Maliki's national unity government, and thus are reluctant to disband their armed wings online others do the same.

IN Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad said there were talks under way between various Iraqi and Shiite groups to reach agreements and sign pledges to end sectarian fighting.

Mrs. Mirabeau Romanian President Traian Basescu arrived in Baghdad to meet Iraqi and EU officials and visit some of his country's 800 troops stationed there. Basescu was escorted by President Jalal Talabani and will meet other key US and Iraqi officials.

In other violence on Wednesday, gunmen on two motorcycles assassinated Col. Qassim Abdul-Qader, administrative head of an Iraqi army division in Mahmudiyah, 32 km of Basra, and a police official who did not want to be named for security reasons.

Workers cleared the on Wednesday on a grenade and rocket-filled black market gasoline in western Baghdad, killing three of three and wounding two, police said. AP

Nagasaki observes 61st anniv of A-bomb

TOKYO—THE MAYOR OF Nagasaki, the second of only two cities ever attacked with an atomic bomb, blasted the world's nuclear powers for stalled efforts to rid the planet of weapons of mass destruction in his address to mark the 61st anniversary of the bombing.

Mayor Itcho Itchikawa's comments, coming amid tensions over North Korea's nuclear and missile tests, echoed those of Japan's Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi in Hiroshima on Sunday.

"The US is progressing in ballistic missile development and is in the process of building up a system for nuclear technology cooperation," he told a memorial ceremony in the Japanese city attended by nearly 5,000 survivors, officials and guests and broadcast on national television.

He said North Korea, which claims it possesses nuclear weapons, was "threatening the peace and security of Japan, as well as the rest of the world."

He also said that an international pact to prevent nuclear proliferation was "on the verge of collapse."

Participants in the service at Peace Memorial Park, just a few hundred meters from the center of the blast, observed a moment of silence at 11:02 a.m., minutes after bombs dropped by US warplanes.

Kikuyo Matsumura, 82, said she was concerned that many of those who survived the bombing had died and that the atomic attack could soon be forgotten.

"I will never forget what happened 61 years ago. Now I feel compelled to tell others how urgent and vital (and) this war was," she said.

Wednesday's ceremony followed a memorial service on Sunday in Hiroshima, where about 45,000 people gathered in the city's peace park. AP

NEW HERO OF ISLAMIC WORLD
Iranians hold up portraits of Lebanese Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah during an Aug. 9 demonstration in down support for the Shiite leader. In Muslim countries from Morocco to Indonesia, Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah is being hailed as the man who took on mighty Israel...and is winning.

North Korea requests South for flood aid

SEOUL—NORTH KOREA HAS requested help from South Korea to cope with devastating floods, a move that could improve inter-Korean relations chilled by the North's recent missile tests launches.

It was the first time the communist nation has officially requested South Korean aid since the floods in mid-July ignored by heavy rains that left at least 540 people dead and 297 missing.

The North asked South Korea to provide food, blankets and medical supplies, along with construction materials and equipment on finding cement and roads to help recover from the disaster, Park Kyung, an official of a South Korean committee said in a for message to its South Korean counterpart.

The Inter-Korean committee are private organizations dedicated to implementing a joint declaration calling for economic cooperation and reconciliation that was adopted at a landmark inter-Korean summit in 2000. Though the South's committee is nominally a civic group, it often acts as an unofficial mouthpiece for the ruling pro-engagement regime that doesn't tolerate wrongdoing other than in official line.

North Korea had initially said it would handle the disaster on its own, but changed its mind. South Korea's Red Cross, Asia's Korea-Red Cross, Asia's Korea-Red Cross unofficial said last week the country's area in urgent need of food and would accept aid from South Korea.

South Korea has said recently it is willing to provide humanitarian help, private groups' aid missions for North Korean flood victims amid growing calls at home for aid to the South's impoverished neighbor. AP

Charles complains about phone eavesdropping

LONDON—BRITISH POLICE while questioning a newspaper editor and another man on Wednesday in an investigation that began with complaints from Prince Charles' office about groundbreaking phone eavesdropping, police said. The palace said.

Police said they did not believe the phones of any members of the royal family had been targeted, but other public figures may have had their calls intercepted, raising questions about security issues, the police said. They refused to specify who.

Police arrested three people on Tuesday in connection with the case. They did not identify the three, but the Mirror of the World's newspaper for its aggressive and often sensational reporting—and Clive Goodman, its royal editor, were among them.

Hayley Hudson, a spokesperson for the Mirror, confirmed newspaper executives were questioned.

A 48-year old man, who has been identified as Goodman, and a 35-year-old man arrested in custody on Wednesday morning, under a Terrorism Act search, the police said. They refused to identify who.

Police said they had completed searches of the residences of the two men still in custody. All three were arrested at their homes in London.

The investigation was prompted by complaints from Charles' Clarence House office to the police's counter prevention department.

"It is focused on alleged reports of security breaches within telephone networks over a significant period of time and the potential impact this may have on protective security around a number of individuals," Metropolitan Police said in a statement.

Charles' office declined to comment on the arrests.

Antiterrorism officers are looking into the investigation and police are working with phone companies in an effort to identify all those whose conversations were intercepted, they said.

Charles was the victim of an earlier hacking scandal, which led to 1005, when he and his now-wife Camilla were recorded having a sexually explicit phone conversation while he was still married to Princess Diana.

The Sun tabloid later published the transcripts, and also ran excerpts of a conversation between Diana and a man who affectionately called her "Squidgy." AP

WORLDBRIEFS

Mexican leftist escalates protests

MEXICO CITY—Supporters of leftist candidate Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador targeted federal offices in escalating protests over allegations of electoral fraud, as officials met one-to-one to tally a partial recount of votes from July's disputed presidential election. On Tuesday, hundreds of backers broke barriers that surrounded the tax agency and the department and forced their way into the buildings, where they chanted slogans and left behind dozens of notes—also taken to a series of protests to demand a total recount of the presidential election. Lopez Obrador, was the runner-up in an official count that gave ruling party candidate Felipe Calderon an advantage of 0.6 percent, or about 240,000 votes. The results he would contest are limited, he said. Demonstrators said, unfortunately to what he called an "extraordinary rally." In Mexico City on Sunday, the day officials are expected to finish recounting votes in about 9 percent of the nation's contentious.

AP

Wrong ATM machine stolen

KUALA LUMPUR—Three would-be thieves broke into a bank in northern Malaysia but failed to make off with any cash as they packed up the wrong machine — a stand-alone deposit machine instead of an automated teller dispenser, police said Wednesday. The incident occurred Monday morning, the three men broke into the anti-police area of the bank in Bayan Baru town of Bukit Mertajam state Wednesday, and fled in a van — attributed to two onlookers — around a roadside. "They loaded the machine of the bought, needing it could not be the ground floor. The crashing sound alerted a security guard in the branch area, situated three away. The three men fled and nearly managed to open the machine, but found no cash as it uses a check deposit machine.

AP

3 powerful weather systems

TOKYO—Taiwan was caught between two powerful weather systems on Wednesday as Tropical Storm Shanshan neared the island's south and Typhoon Saomai was approaching its heavily populated north. The Central Weather Bureau forecast a brief morning for Taiwan before Shanshan's north, including the capital, Taipei.

Thaksin at crossroads

BANGKOK—Embattled Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra on Wednesday said that he had reached a provisional view a decision whether to continue in power, but he refused to offer a hint from politics. Thaksin called to answer charges of misbehavior. "Thailand on Monday, ahead of the 17th general elections. Thaksin said that pressure on his family has made him feel unable to join politics.

AP

Group offers China $100,000 to stop dog slaughter

BEIJING—A US animal protection group on Wednesday said it would give China $100,000 to end cruelty dogs against crime if it promises to immediately stop the mass slaughter of dogs in a Yulin, Guangxi province. Some died from the disease.

"There are far better ways of addressing rabies control to promote the safety of our citizens, the good reputation of China and the welfare of dogs," Michael Pozelle, president of The Humane Society of the United States, said in an open letter to China's ambassador in Washington.

The financial aid was offered to help set up a rabies control program in Jining, a city in the central province of Shandong, where 18 people died of rabies over an 8-month period.

An official with the Ministry of Agriculture's media affairs office declined to immediately comment and referred a Chinese translation of the Humane Society's statement. He refused to give his name.

Officials in Muyang, a county in the southern province of Yunnan, last month clubbed to death more than 10,000 dogs after rabies killed three people in the area.

The killings provoked unusually pained criticism in Chinese state media, while the activist group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals called for a boycott of Chinese products.

The official newspaper Legal Daily published an editorial calling the killings as "extraordinarily crude, cold-blooded and lazy way for the government to deal with epidemic disease." The state Xinhua News Agency said in a separate editorial that the slaughter was "the ugly result of a bad situation."

The Humane Society said the money was conditional on China agreeing to stop the mass killing of dogs and accept the group's help in establishing a nationwide rabies control program that relies on vaccinations.

AP

Nokor women think dog meat good for skin

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA—DOG MEAT IS IN, cleaning popular among women in South Korea, where the traditional Korean delicacy is believed to be good for the skin, a pro-Pyongyang newspaper in Japan reported Wednesday.

Dog meat has long been regarded as a stamina food in South Korea, widely consumed in hot summer days in particular.

Mostly known as believed to have a greater variety of dishes with dog meat, known in the North as "sweet meat." South Korean gourmets who have used the delicacy in the North, our Northern dishes tenderness.

Taesan stressed has various vitamins, including Vitamin A and B and is good for digestion problems and fatigue," the Chosen Sinbo newspaper said on its website www.is.kr.sol.

The paper quoted a cook at a dog meat restaurant in the North's capital, Pyongyang, as saying an increasing number of women are visiting the restaurant.

"Customers get convinced about the effects of meat soon when they see the skin of our employees and cooks," the paper quoted the chef, Kyu Sung Mok, 47, as saying.

AP

FEEDING GIRAFFES
Four-week-old baby giraffe Alex (second from right) and part of his herd are better known as cars at the 'Serengeti' Safari park in the northern German village of Wedenbergen.

The WORLD

Edna Lawrence B. Olasco

SEXUALLY SUGGESTIVE

Malaysian authorities fined organizers of a concert by the chart-topping Pussycat Dolls for allowing the singers to wear skimpy costumes and for their "sexually suggestive routines." The Selangor Municipal Council, which administers the suburb where the sold-out concert was held in late July, fined organizers 10,000 ringgit. "In terms of their eye-popping attire, well, there's a lot of proof of that from our sources and the media," Mohamad Arif Abdul Rahman, the council president, said.

Bird flu flare-ups raise fears in Asia

HANOI—NEW BIRD FLU FLARE-UPS IN THAILand and Laos and the steady march of the disease in Indonesia have raised concerns in other Asian countries that they too may see the deadly virus rise again.

Thailand last month confirmed its first human case in seven months when the H5N1 strain of the virus killed a 16-year-old boy. A second death was reported in Thailand on Saturday prompting Vietnam's prime minister to call for heightened vigilance.

Vietnam, where bird flu has killed 42 people since it began ravaging poultry stocks about three years ago, has not logged any human cases in eight months or observed disease in birds this year.

The communist country—reeling from political wild and a mass poultry vaccination for its success, but a poultry outbreak last month in neighboring Laos—coupled with the Thai cases—has left officials on edge.

"The bird flu situation in the region makes us very worried," said Hoang Thu Thuy, deputy director of the Animal Health Department. "The risk of bird flu resurgence in Vietnam remains very high."

International experts say they've been concerned about Thailand and Vietnam, which have shown they can beat back the virus, than Indonesia, which does not have the same record of success.

Indonesia has tallied 64 deaths in the past year and became the world's hardest-hit country this week after two more teenagers died on the outskirts of Jakarta.

"Indonesia takes a lot of deep soup bear me," said Juan Lubroth, an animal health expert at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome. "If we are not able to keep a lid on the problem, it could be a source for future outbreaks and an extension of the outbreaks to other parts of the world."

Bird flu has killed at least 137 people worldwide since it began ravaging Asian poultry in late 2003. Most human cases have been traced to contact with infected birds, but experts fear the virus could mutate into a form that passes easily among people, potentially sparking a pandemic.

In May, Indonesia grabbed international attention when seven of eight family members infected with bird flu died on Sumatra island. The World Health Organization said limited human-to-human transmission occurred, but stopped with the last blood relative, his son outside the family fell ill.

The OIO but said the virus is rampant among billions of backyard chickens in Indonesia. Slaughtering them isn't carried out following outbreaks, vaccination is spotty and surveillance is weak.

Jakarta and the OIO are working to implement a national strategic plan that would tackle the problem at its source, but have so far only received a fraction of the $56 million needed.

"It is a slow process," Lubroth said. "Nobody said this is going to be a Hollywood movie that is going to end after two hours."

The resurgence in Thailand and Laos, along with continuing outbreaks in China, is a reminder of just how difficult it is to rid a country of the virus. AP

You've invested in that killer wardrobe for quite awhile now.

Flat it with your very own place in Makati.

Fully Fitted, Fully Furnished, Fully Fabulous Makati Condos.

For as low as 12,000/month!

See backpage, main section

grandsoho makati

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Federer, Nadal clear hurdles /A24

SPORTS

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendrez

- US five passes test vs scrappy Brazil /A24

SIZE MATTERS Nigerian Prince loses possession as St. Benilde's Gerald Lipsay and Plastic Ubru have a solid wall in yesterday's game. PHOTO BY

Lions survive Blazers in OT, enter Final 4

By Jaeniee W. Payo

THE SAN BEDA LIONS LEARNED A FEW lessons from the most unlikely source.

Overcoming a sluggish start, the Lions erased it up in overtime to post a 75-68 victory over the lowly St. Benilde Blazers and stave off dead elimination in the NCAA men's basketball tournament yesterday at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

While everyone else looked all over, Reginaldo Mones came through with 16 points and seven rebounds to lead the Lions to their eighth straight victory.

"It was an ugly win," admitted Lions Beda coach Eric Altamirano. "We thought we're already ready for the semis, but we still have a lot of things to learn. I'm thankful to Coach, they pushed us to the limit."

In the second game, the Philippine Christian University also claimed a semifinal seat with an 81-71 victory over the San Sebastian Stags.

Gabby Espinas drew a game-high 23 points to lead the Dolphins to their eighth win in 10 games.

Mones, who got back from a one-game suspension, and Raymond Maggay opened the 11-and-5 charge to the cans posted by a 40-42 advantage.

The Blazers, who had recently dropped their semifinal bid, stunned further with a 11-9 record.

Converting from long range, the Lions fired 12 of their 16 points from beyond the arc in their fourth-quarter rally.

A 3-pointer apiece and the game at 61, while Jam Hazeri's free-throw basket gave the Lions their first lead, 63-61, late in the fourth period.

Hazeri scorer Oswald Lipsay hosted a jumper that knotted the scores, 65-65, with 54.6 seconds.

The Blazers had the opportunity to upset the Lions, but Pipo Mendoza was slapped with a intentional violation with only 5.3 ticks remaining.

The Lions finished with only three points in the first period, the Greens in one-quarter this era.

5 SAVAGINGS	W	L
San Beda	8	1
Lyceon	8	1
JRU	8	2
Mapua	5	4
S.Sebastian	3	7
Perpetual	2	7
JRU	2	7
St. Benilde	1	8

GAME'S SUNDOWN
All dances finished
47 sec. — Alfi w/ jumper (63-61)
4 pts. — Panamaren
Mapua time

After trailing by as many as 12 points, 37-49, Diego Gonzalvelo sparked the Lions' recovery to cut the deficit to 57-53 by the end of the third period.

The St. Benilde-La Salle favorites proved unwilling to pursue play by pulling off a 61-62 encounter over the powerhouse Jose Rodin Cubs.

Despite the loss, the Cubs remained on top at 7-2, while the Greenies improved their record to 4-5.

The scores:

Second Game (Jrs)

SAN BEDA (8)-Mones 16, Lucero 9, Gumbrido 8, Dino 6, Hernandez 6, Angeles 4, Maggay 2, Alfonsi 1, Tapiran 1, Nunez 0, Cortez 0

ST. BENILDE (8)-Ali 18, Dela Pi, Pulido, Y. Lacap 8, Rubiso 4, Aranas 3, Bautista 2, Cadiz 0, D. Lacap 0, Lucanas 0, Sandoval, Villa 0, Daniel, Martinez 0, Lebrudez 0, Ubrido 0

Quarters: 5-12, 37-37, 57-53, 75-68

Third Game (Sen)

MAPUA-Espinas 23, Santos 15, Navarro 11, Garcia 8, Dadul 8, Alejandro 4, Ramirez 2, Dela Fi, Bilo 2, Miguel, Dalisay 2, Aurelio 1, Santos 0, Abad, Sanez 0

JRU-Yeban 21, Perez 16, Delgado 15, Del Mundo 10, Dejesus C, Juan, Dejesus D, Sabandeza, Dejesus E, Quiroz, Quiroz

Quarters: 19-25, 40-48, 62-63, 81-71

RP archers shatter 11 records

COACH FILIPINO ARCHERS, LED BY COMpound bow division gold medalist Ina Bravo-Jamin Yap, ripped 11 national records in the recent 22nd Asian Grand Prix tournament held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

A 23-year-old Philsports-Ateneo graduate of La Salle College of St. Benilde, Yap set nine new marks and equaled two. The two other records were registered by the women's and men's squads in the Olympic recurve tournament.

The Filipinos bagged a total of 15 medals, including three golds each by Ramon Fin and Yap in the compound bow division.

Yap's new records are 1,079 points in the 18-70 Round, 350 (70-meter distance), 347 (70-meter distance), 345 (50-m distance), 358 (50-m distance), 345 (30-arrow final round), 4024 (Team FITA Round), 343 (36-arrow final match) and 271 (Olympic Round team event tally).

Yap missed the records set by Raul Arambolo in September 2002 and February 2003 in those events. He also tied the 116 mark for 12-arrow finals match set by Carlos Cuneg in May 2002.

The new standard for women's recurve Olympic team event for had arrow match of 196 points was set by Jennifer Figueroa, Rachelle Anne Cabral and Katherine Awayan Imson.

Mark Javier, Noel Alonso dela Cruz, Christian Cobilla and Imson Barcelona set the other recurve mark, scorching for 195 points to better the 194 of Sultan's Javier, Joseph Solibeda, Jan. Winzie Lauren Bird Chrisangelo in the men's Olympic team 6-arrow match.

Mr. Fin, undeniably the biggest Filipino winner as she added three silvers to her gold haul, equaled the 1373.9kn round record she posted in December during the 23rd Southeast Asian Games at Ilo-Ilo's Bay Pavapot.

Mainly due to the overpowering performance of Mr. Fin and Yap, the RP team emerged overall champion in the 2nd Asian CP with 29 points, followed by Indonesia and Malaysia.

St. Clare repulses UM five

ST. CLARE COLLEGE (Caloocan) bunked on the heroics of rookie Eugene Torres and veteran Gerald Geraldino to repulse reigning rival University of Manila, 85-72, in the 2004 SAMCIS men's basketball championship at the Cura Hilton gym in Sucoro, Quezon City.

Torres, a 5-foot-11 guard, and Geraldino, a 6-3 center, combined for 38 points to power the Saints to their second win in five outings.

Torres finished with 22 points and Geraldino added 16 points for the Andy de Guzman-mentored Saints, who handed the Rizalia their fourth setback in five matches.

Last year, St. Clare was the only team to beat UM also in the Cura Hilton gym.

Onofre Napiza led the Rizalia with 22 points, followed by Ged Santiago and Allen Mallari with 16 points each.

In the junior division, Our Lea University downed UM, 79-75, behind 18th Rapiza and Clarest Cardeña for its fifth straight win.

Rapiza supported with 13 points while Cardeña added 12. Brother Boyz had 22 points for the Rizalists, who dropped to second at 3-3.

THE FORD ESCAPE 2.3L XLS
RIDE OFF IN ONE TODAY.

₱999K Cash Price

- 2.3L DOHC 16 valve - Independent Rear Suspension - Dual SRS Airbags - ABS with Electronic Brakeforce Distribution

Baby Tams try to sustain win run versus Bullpups

GAME TIME (Moa Arena-Arellano)
12 nn—MCU (Ilo Ilo)
2 p.m.—AU vs Adamson (w)
4 p.m.—UST vs DLSU (w)

RISING TO HIS BETTER TIMES

Ateneo standout Jason Ballesteros in UAAP action. He fires his fourth U Baby Tamaraws will try to sustain their winning run at the start of the second round today.

Led by Jasmine Rivera, the Baby Tamaraws will tackle the winless National U Bullpups at noon today at the Moa Arena-Arellano.

Rivera, the pacesetter in the statistical race, averaged 15 points, 12.8 rebounds and a league-best 4 blocks per game at the end of the first round.

Equally impressive was rookie Mark Lapid, who ranked third at 11.6 points, 10.1 rebounds and 2.2 assists per outing.

The 6'0 Ateneo Blue Eagles ruled the first round with a 6-0 sweep and climb the Baby Tams two steps higher with a 5-1 win-loss record.

Kicking off the second round action in the season's division will be the defending champion Tamaraws, who will also encounter from a poor 2-9 first against the Adamson Falcons at 4 p.m. set on Saturday at the Philsports arena.

Adamson wrapped up its first round campaign at third place's both in the senior and juniors division.

The Baby Falcons will battle the University of the East Pirates at 2 p.m. today followed by the 4 p.m. game between the Ilo Ilo Prime Cubs and the University of the Philippines Junior Maroons.

With Jun Joshua at the helm, the Baby Falcons will try to score a repeat of its 75-72 triumph over the Pirates in the first round.

The Cloud 9-winning Junior Maroons, led by Jason Espinita, will also pair for a double-round tussle after edging the Tiger Cubs, 74-76, in their first encounters. *Jonathan M. Bayo*

ALL CLEAR. Russia's Yelena Isinbayeva clears the bar on the competition at women's pole vault qualifying during the European Athletics Championships in Goteborg, Sweden, Wednesday. AP

Welcoat hires 3 crack ex-pros

By Jane Navarro

THE WELCOAT DRAGONS ARE HALFWAY through their manpower buildup for their maiden stint in the coming Philippine Basketball Association season.

After elevating three assistant aces from their amateur squads, the Dragons have acquired three more players from a trayo among former PBA players which ended yesterday.

Player-agent Tinnie Baptista and the 26-ager have reached an agreement with Freddie Bagtas, Jilmer Lao and the high-leaping Wins Selig, who had impressed team owners Raymond Yu and Tony Que during the tryouts.

"It's already a done deal. We sign the contract even before this day (yesterday) ends," said Baptista.

Bagtas, a pepper-pated ex-ace of National University, will get a two-year deal with the Dragons along with the 6-foot-7 Lao and Selig, who both played for the UST Tigers in the UAAP.

Financial terms were not divulged but an industry source said the three are bound to receive not more than P100,000 a month on the first year of the pact.

The three players will join Jayjay Gabayo, Jay-R Reyes and Dante Segual, who were brought in by the Asian Coatings Phils. franchise from the PBL.

Welcoat's top picture in the assortment, Jovanie Tampkey, will also be included in the roster.

The Dragons hope to sign Johnny Ilelo, Joey Mendiz, Bob Wainwright and Dennis Lopez during the PBA dispersal draft today.

Welcoat can pick the players off "unprotected" by the nine other teams in the dispersal draft. Each team is supposed to name only 10 players on its protected list.

The Dragons are hoping Gino Bird's Nominal Additional would be available in the dispersal draft to fill their need for a veteran defender.

In the rookie draft on Aug. 30, the Dragons signed to use their 20th and 13th picks overall either on Gelo Alolino, 6-foot-6 Mark Andaya or Boyet Bautista if there are still available by then.

GELO

SPORTSWATCH

Callaway demo days set

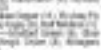
CALLAWAY GOLF WILL HOLD A SERIES OF DEMO days for its new products during tomorrow, Saturday and Sunday at the Manila Southwoods Golf Club in Cavite. Golfers can try out the Callaway Big Bertha Fusion irons and woods, X-Tour woods, FT Hybrid fairway woods, FT-i driver and Steelhead Plus Rogue putters when it comes to the Hitachi Tools' event. Demo days are scheduled at 9:00 a.m. on Aug. 17, 10:00 a.m. on Aug. 18, Last Friday's golfing outing, 11 Southpoint on Aug. 20, Mimosa Golf on Aug. 24, Legacy on Aug. 30, Sagittarius on Aug. 31, Wack Wack on Sept. 14, UHGP on Sept. 15 and Santa Ana Golf on Sept. 20.

Las Palmas cockfest up

MORE THAN 40 GAMEFOWLS WILL SPICE UP THE SIXTH Bino-Cock Derby slated at 10 a.m. today at the Las Palmas Clubhouse, Pasay Rizal. The Bulacan-based champion will be entered and clash against 19,000 Calamba cocks whose gaffs 19,000 are known, and locals, Ilo and Bay Badges. "There is no restriction as to the number of Las Palmas Clubhouse," said cockpit manager Jake Solano. "Aficionados are invited to witness the derby and cheer their favorite." Last February, 100 cocks were registered in another National Derby sponsored by Asel Placer, whose Manager Asel Serra posted the hottest winning time of 16.30 seconds. (ARNOLD ARE and JOE ARCE)

King's Bakeshop wins

KING'S BAKESHOP EXPRESS TUESDAY, 10-04, while Alex E moved Quincy Esquivel, to overcome, 30-602, to share the lead in the 30th Jimmy Espiritu Light Basketball tournament at the Ayala Greenfield Ilo-Ilo Court Gabriel Reed 19 points to power the Bakers to their second straight victory. Arbert finished for three quarters before combining Quincy Esquivel after sending the game into overtime at 72. Rivera also added 15 rebound contributions once the night team was organized by small-time basketball tournament manager Jimmy Espiritu.



BY TOP CHOICE

Cortez inks new pact; Aces want Johnny back

MIKE CORTEZ, ALASKA'S CRACK POINT guard, has signed a new three-year pact next season as the Aces look into the possibility of relieving one of the team's former stars, Johnny Abarrientos.

Coach Tim Cone declined to discuss the 6-foot specialist terms of the deal with Cortez, whose backcourt partnership with Willie Miller is one of the strongest in the league.

Asked if Abarrientos and Jimmy Thompson have raised interest recently with the Aces while negotiations with Eddie Laure are underway.

Alaska is also interested in getting back Alvin Ilonito, the Most Valuable Player in 1998, who helped slasher win nine titles in the '90s.

"We're definitely exploring the possibility of having him back," said Cone of the 36-year-old Abarrientos, whose contract with the Coca-Cola Tigers ends on Sept. 30.

Cone said team management is considering its salary cap, the available playing time to be given Abarrientos and what Coca-Cola would ask in return for the services.

"It's not like I don't want him back. I don't know whether it's Beer (Tigers' ball to mate," said Cone during Wednesday evening's media recap in the Philsports Arena. *Jane Navarro*

Open champ misses cut

DE VILLA

LEEDEE DE VILLA SCORED OUT when the going got tough, limping out to a 10-over 80 and leaving out of the 2005 US Women's Amateur qualifiers at the Pamplona Balay Golf Club's Wilds Hollow Course in North Fluhr. Despite Tuesday Defending the Manila's.

Under tougher playing conditions at the par-72 layout, De Villa struggled all day from the back tee, making bogies, double and triple bogies and even a quadruple bogey on the par 5 18th, which she finished to the first round, when she failed to carry the ditch on her first two drives.

The 13-year-old De Villa, who shot a 77 in the first round, had times of 47-43 for a 36-hole total of 157, finishing 144th among 156 starters.

"The course is really tough for her because it's testing especially in the second day when she struggled with her driver and missed a lot of fairways," said national team coach Bong Coquia. "And she had 9 on the par-5 18th hole. She still really tried" said national team coach Bong Lopez.

It was worse for De Villa dropped 11 strokes in a nine-hole stretch, including back-to-back triple bogeys from No. 8 to her 47 in a respectable start that started and ended a bit disappointing. "She couldn't say much to be dismissed for the par-for LPF Ladies Open champion who simply lacked the power and length on the tee.

11 OFWs join National Pool

ELEVEN FILIPINOS WHO WORK ABROAD AS pool instructors and professional players are coming home to take part in the 2005 BSCP National Pool Championship set to start Wednesday.

Led by 10-footer Jose "Jimmy" Parico, the OFW players are coming from Japan, the Middle East and the US. Coming from Japan are Raul Rodriguez, Constante Baldoza, Elvis Peters and Daniel Gallego.

From the Middle East, the players are Mario Tuazon, Jesse Buenaventura, Jessie Ortega, Elmer Haya and Elvis Cabrenga. Tuazon placed third in the 2005 Asian Sports Philippine Open.

Another player coming from the US is Bunyo and Roque, a resident of California.

Parico reigned as Filipino champion in the 70s and 80s. The OFW players are scheduled to arrive this weekend.

Chot says RP five learned a lot in Doha

By Jane Navarro

THAT KEEN DESIRE TO EXcel is not from the start.

National coach Manuel "Chot" Reyes said the RP basketball team built around Philippine Basketball Association players got the learning experience of a lifetime in finishing up winless in a recent tournament in Qatar.

"We know this outcome was before we left, given the unexpected (three wins) losing," Reyes told the Inquirer a day after the Kiamis suffered from the 48-Fourth International Basketball Championship in Doha.

"But I'm happy as a coach of the players, as individuals and as a team, we've learned a lot," added Reyes, who attended his third coaching stint this Miguel Beer coach yesterday.

Led by Talk 'N Text's Willie Miller, Mick Pennisi of Red Bull and Bobby Ray Parks of Purefoods, the RP squad finished dead last in a field of four after dropping all five games.

Reyes said the Filipinos can use to despite in the elimination round as it was to Lebanon and Qatar twice.

Another Purefoodsteel RP team member is Jeffrey Cariaso.

Reyes said the Filipinos can use to despite in the elimination round as it was to Lebanon and Qatar twice.

Another Purefoodsteel RP team member is Jeffrey Cariaso.

REYES

Ho Dinka Kip.

"In fact, I asked the team if we're willing to face the possibility of traveling there and not winning at all."

The answer to that, Reyes said, was the intensity and dedication the San Miguel Corp.-sponsored Philippines displayed even in the face of an inherent defeat.

The Philippines was forced to play five games for the straight days and Angola, the top team from Africa, arrived a day late for the tournament. The Filipinos were supposed to have a one-day break following three rainouts from a road games.

Winning five straight games took its toll on the team. "Enough we didn't bring the best team. Or any was worth it because of the knowledge and experience that we gained out of it," said Reyes.

Jao completes third Superbikes sweep

REGAINING TITLIST JOLET JAO of Shell Advance-Honda took control up with another runup to keep his leadership in the third leg of the 2005 Shell Advance Superbikes Series race Sky Coffee Road Racing Championship yesterday at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Jao stepped on the gas quickly and left the pack behind to win both races in the event sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sports and Sport Association.

He clocked 15 minutes and 44.601 seconds or 81.189 seconds ahead of runner-up Jessy Mendoza of the meeting race. He was equally unstoppable in the afternoon where he finished the 10-lap race in 15 minutes and 49.548 seconds or 0.790 seconds ahead of Mendoza.

Jao now holds a total of 150 points that fortified his bid for a 250cc road bikers crown.

Red Oxo, who represented the country in the Asian Road Race of Champs, took third place in the morning race while Rocky Gil Nonato and BJ Mendoza ended fourth and fifth, respectively.

JOLET Jao tilts almost standing to the ground as he negotiates a turn en route to his third sweep in the 2005 Shell Advance Superbikes Series-Sun Mig Coffee Road Racing Championship.

Timberland Raceway hosting Endurocross

THE THIRD LEG OF THE ENDUrocross Series pushes through at the Timberland Raceway, Timberland Heights in San Mateo, Rizal, Sunday.

Categories of stake are Open Noobservices, Beginners Open A & B Productions, Executive Open standard and Senior Open C.

Beginners and experienced racecross racers, as well as road riders are welcome to join, and organizing HPS president Ernst Pamplona.

Major sponsors are Filtercon Land Inc., PEL Woods and Chickenhouse Inc. The event is also backed by Honda Yamaha, Shell Advance Motorcycle Oils, Omi-shoes, JTH Corporation, Boss Automotive, Cross Gear, Chelsea diesel sales, Golden Arch, Outdoor Engine Enterprise, Barbell queen diesel, Aqua Star purified drinking water, Action Plus, Dee's Mar-dog, ANK, TRL, Motocross Oggie Boggie Hardtop and Sausages, Shelter 2 Money changer Shell Media Bench and Mike's Tent and grill.

Call Raceway Office Arjayson at 09175-4826618, 09218-5715443 and 09252-4235641.

NCR'S Samuel de Santiago (14) is no stranger to the Cagayan Phoenix Oriental defender as their match yesterday NCR won, 5-0.

Viloria, Romero tip scales today

WORLD BOXING COUNCIL LIGHT FLYWEIGHT CHAMPION RUBEN Viloria and challenger Oscar Rene Romero of Mexico will go through the official weigh-in today for their scheduled 12-round title fight tomorrow at the Orbiana Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

VILORIA

Viloria will be making the second defense of the world title he acquired with a hard-fought knockout of Mexican Eric Ortiz last year.

The fight will be televised live over Solar Sports and ESPN starting at 10 p.m. midnight (Manila time).

The 20-year-old Romero was not able to attend yesterday's press conference, but had time to round to bring the title belt to Mexico.

If successful, Viloria is looking forward to a possible unification fight with the fresh WBO light flyweight champ Eric Kunada of Japan, although for now he is not looking past Romero.

Meanwhile, tickets to the Viloria-Romero clash have been sold out since Gary Cattelone, Viloria's manager, had difficulty getting more tickets for his MP6 who will be coming from the Philippines.

Promoter Bob Arum confirmed that Viloria will be fighting in a packed house, saying "There isn't a ticket available. Every one has been bought by the cruise/caravan there's such a tremendous turnout of Filipinos coming to see him fight."

Aaliyah L. Jaguimitan, contributor

Davao, NCR women's title showdown looms

By Cordell F Tayao
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—A SIZZLING shooting of one-under 71 and a scorching 36-hole total of 141 by Davao's Grace Nicart and NCR's Ana Gonzales headline the finals of the PVO National Women's Open Championships today.

The defending play representatives were unanimous coach Hope Ordet continued to send wonders for the Davao Dynamites, who handily grew up against Ana Gonzales 4-1 victory over General Maxilom in their final Group A match for the nearly billiam University pitch.

But the spotlight belonged to NCR's pure, miss Ana Agonistes, who produced an amazing performance display that highlighted NCR's 9-0 drubbing of Cagayan de Oro in round 1.

Ana Gonzales' effective feet, aggressive, thrusting FIT player of the year awarded GIGIFIL in Davao with her speed and skill to score six goals, mostly on one-on-one opportunities.

The semifinal pairings, however, have yet to be determined pending the outcome of the Regina Grand-Kalgan group U match and the Cebu-Isla Indeed GF simultaneously going on at present time. The semifinals are on Friday.

"It's still a very open race for the title. But NCR and Davao are favored to be in the finals at the two things are going," said DFF president Amy Miguel "Tiburcio," Bohinabilan.

In the other Group B match, Iloilo dusted Bacolod Occidental's same league with a 2-1 victory. Magnes, which defeated CMDSB, 4-1, Tuesday and Iloilo wound up with 5 points each.

Agonistes, who now has 16 goals in just five games, eludes fellow defenders to break the ice in the 32nd minute. She caught the CMDSB defense napping a minute later for another goal from short range.

"We're pushing but are so quick so I had expected," said NCR coach Ellen Basit, whose team also finished Iloilo, 3-0, Tuesday with aggressive scoring in goals.

Iloilo redeemed the arrival of Ann Bernardo on the scoresheet for pulled her out after only 20 minutes of action, over hurt her thigh region against which stood.

But NCR simply had too much firepower. Fiona McKenzie—third in the PVO regular to make it 3-0 at halftime and Mary Ignacio and Jessica Ryan contributed a goal each in the second half, where Agonistes scored four times.

Except for the solid goal they gave up to Debbie Bl. striker Bernardo Quirke at the 40th minute, the Chinnerlac, who got to speak from Bacolod in his Brave, were in control throughout.

Player Avalon Inglis came up with the best goal of the tournament so far, during the rough the defense with a breathtaking run from the right wing to the center before pounding one over the goalkeeper Diana rising her right foot shot pushed from 3-0 ahead in the 73rd minute.

Bohol Mr. Hillman said a cool first touch that allowed a chance she loses left of the bottom corner to boost the ice to the 10th minute.

Asiad boxing bets a mix of old, new

By Dennis U. Bras
Inquirer sports editor

A MIX OF SEETLE-BACKED boxers and first-timers will carry the country's colors to the Doha Asian Games in December.

Although both the nursing members of the national boxing pool are still signing, amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines president Manny V. Lopez yesterday announced the only the last known will come tickets to the quadrennial Games.

The country won a silver courtesy of light flyweight Hanz Talaroso and a bronze through light welterweight Ronnie Pets in the 1994 Hiroshima Asiad.

Lopez said the Philippines will field a minimum of six and a maximum eight boxers in Doha.

Lopez said Talaroso and fellow Athens Olympian Violito Payla (flyweight) are leaning very well and they have winning chances shooting in Doha.

"Between now and December, a lot of things can happen," said Lopez. "Presently, Hanz and Violito are up there but other members of the pool are also coming up."

Among the newcomers, Lopez believes that bantamweight Jean Ugon and lightweight Jennifer Ronquillo have the inside track for Asiad slots.

Mehmed Sand coach Bo Gaspi and the Hotsands are going through a very rigid and strenuous elimination" under the supervision of the incoming staff at the Southern Camp in Baguio City.

Gaspi said Marvin Sonsuda, Delfin Bolcelo, Jesse Kieron Elorde, Orlando Tacuyan Jr., Bill Nicum and Jhiel Gutierrez are in the running for the other Asiad slots.

Pichay event stakes titles, Fide ratings

FILIPINO CHESS PLAYERS NEED NOT go abroad to earn their master titles and Fide Federal chess federation's rating points anymore.

PICHAY

They can strive both by joining the 3rd Perspex Cup here in Shamrock Chess Tournament slated Aug. 12-13 in Cebu Inc. Inc. Inc. Inc. Inc. Inc. Congressman Prospero "Butch" Pichay, president of the National Chess Federation of the Philippines, made this possible by making arrangements to make the P500,000 tournament Fide-rated.

Congressman Pichay will grace the opening ceremony of the tournament which has lured the country's top players led by Grandmasters Mark Bergado, Jaya Antonio and Eugene Torre, all members of Team Philippines to the Turin Chess Olympiad in May.

Originally slated Aug. 12-19, the event was extended by the organizing Friends of Pichay to coincide with Quezon's town fiesta on Sunday.

The organizers also decided to raise the prize money from the original P100,000 to meet payments from donors and the Tourna.

For details, call tournament director Sid Gene Catalbas at 3920-77-22097.

Bacolod's ETCS returns to Softball World Series

BACOLOD CITY—THE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE Training Center School now reinvented into the list of competing squads for the 2000 Junior League World Series in Richland, Washington, from Aug. 11-19.

Contrary to reports that ETCS will not be able to participate in the World Series, the Bacolod-based team left Tuesday morning to see action in the national tournament, according to Little League Philippines executive assistant Dan Gonzales.

The ETCS outfielders were stolen from the center of the girls' 13-14 championship Monday only to be returned in time for the game the other LLP representative with the LL Inc. headquarters in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, through e-mail, Gonzales explained.

Ida and Dat Del Mundo, the powerful tie in sensational sibling of LL, accumulated the unofficial game of the Bacolod-based team after ILP had requested for his approval to remove ETCS in the roster.

Pelson had earlier instructed Junior League tournament director Atty. Diosdado to remove the Philippines represented by ETCS, not the girls' 13-14 division without reasonable reason.

The LL Bacolod players and three coaches of ETCS left Manila at 7:55 a.m. Tuesday.

ETCS, which played third in its previous two campaigns in the Little League, earned the right to see action in the MARCO title after topping the Philippine Juniors in Brave Bolga in April. Classmate Ida, PDI Visayas Bureau

Pacman best pug pound-for-pound

FILIPINO BOXER EMMANUEL "Pacman" Dacquio held on to the No. 1 spot in the pound-for-pound rankings in the latest edition of the WBM Ring Magazine.

PACQUIAO

This is Pacquiao's second consecutive month at the helm of the pound-for-pound list after he defeated Mexican Agapito Sanchez via technical knockout in the fifth round last July 22 at the Araneta Coliseum.

Pacquiao's scoring edge over Marcelino was the same as last month. The Filipino fighter is ranked in two rankings but was not but a third less than Sanchez, both Hiroshima Hernandez.

The chairman of the WBM Rio Boxing Bell is to recognize the achievements of deserving professional boxers by giving a belt to boxing journalists. The poll includes voting members from the US, Canada, England, Ireland, Italy, Panama, Australia and New Zealand. Authors Inquirer

Aunzo, Fernando share top

JEROME ALFRED AND ANTHONY FERNANDO fortified the bogey-card to no with similar scores to share the top individual honors in the Class A level in the two-divisional opening round of the Swimming Amateur Tour at the Splendido Pool Golf Club course in Batangas.

Dressed of a win by Gene Boador in the gross tour leg in Davao, Aunzo put himself in contention together with Jose Bautista and Jerry Ingreso in the tournament finally put under way after some weather-out Tuesday's first round and hosted organizers makes the event to 54 holes.

Aunzo, however, found himself a tough duel Ingreso in Bonanzo who made many of 34-37 Monday to beat Bautista and Jerry Ingreso on a day stunned by a 38 minutes delay due to inclement

Jose Bautista and Kevin Tenes were just three strokes off the pace after carding 74 to while Tommy Hinamon was in the company of Bonjo Sarmiento and Eric Gois at 75.

Fourteen players entered the last two rounds of play and among those who made it are Gilbert Espejo, the ex-world amateur champ, 14-shot a 77 and tied for the last slot with Dave others.

Included in the top are Jose Bautista, C Lizzy Fibra, Bernie Tibbett, Carlos Dalmacio, RJG, Shadrick Ingreso, Chris Espejo, the oldest hand of the leg, a growing five-some for participants.

Class C, Class D and all brackets of the ladies division were reduced to 18 holes because of the cancellation of first round play.

Class A finishes on the par-5 last hole that each and Rogers to the rain as Jerome after Fibra's ball bogeyed and Johnny Ty stumbled with a double bogey finish and Sia finished with 96.

Jessie Balmedina and Kevin Tenes were just three strokes off the pace after carding 74 to while Tommy Hinamon was in the company of Bonjo Sarmiento and Eric Gois at 75.

Fourteen players entered the last two rounds of play and among those who made it are Gilbert Espejo, the ex-world amateur champ, 14-shot a 77 and tied for the last slot with three others.

FEU, UST jins prevail

THE EASTERN UNIVERSITY'S Team A and University of Santo Tomas' Black topped the men's and women's 1st-round gold medals, respectively, in the recent 29th Philippine National Invitational championships at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The Eastern men's team netted six gold medals, while the Tigresses bagged five.

Meanwhile in La Salle University Gold won in the women's event.

The Hotsands finished ahead of UST Gold and the nine-runners UE and Rizal Technological University.

PBDB stomped Adventure in the men's senior competition while PEA, Team A topped the women's division at the expense of Manila and Ateneo were the men's and women's silver medalists.

Stockinger wins; Madrigal sparkles

FRESH FROM HIS FIRST IN THE AUSTRALIAN leg of the Euro Asian Challenge where he finished eighth, Marion Stockinger added to his list of conquests the fifth round of the 2000 Rotax International Challenge held at the Carmona Circuit Philippines on Aug. 4.

Stockinger, a veteran of two Rotax Max World Championships, started from pole position and rolled away unopposed in the 20-lap race which was made challenging by the damp track that befuddled most of the contenders. The 20-year-old's second win in the

AT EVASIVE MOVE: Madrigal (Mikasaga) steals a leg during the final race of the 2000 Rotax International Challenge at the Carmona Circuit Philippines.

SPORTS

NADAL Ready for revenge

Federer, Nadal clear hurdles

TORONTO — TOP-SEEDED ROGER Federer and defending champion Rafael Nadal cleared their first hurdles in straight sets at the Rogers Cup on Tuesday.

Federer whipped Paul-Henri Mathieu of France, a semifinalist last year, 6-3, 6-4, while second-seeded Nadal ousted past Olympic champ Nikolay Davydenko, 6-3, 6-2.

No Todd Woodbridge-Mark Woodforde tie-tight Grand Slam title and fourth straight at the Aforgland Club.

Federer lost 11 more against Mathieu and broke him once in each set without offering a break point. He then walked off with a place at stake brought on court to celebrate his 25th birthday.

Nadal's next foe is fourth-seeded qualifier Lee Hyung-taik, who beat Uzbekistan qualifier Sergeiy Stakhovsky 6-4, 6-7 (5), 6-1. Federer will meet another Frenchman, Sebastien Grosjean.

Ninth-seeded Nikolay Davydenko, who won his second clay title this year on Hamburg in Poland, lost to Xavier Malisse of Belgium 6-2, 7-5. Malisse, twice a finalist on hardcourts this year, broke the Russian three times.

Tommy Robredo was the last four games to ease 2000 titles Mosse Lodra 7-5, 6-7, 6-2.

Llayton Hewitt, who has never made it past the tournament's third round, struggled to beat Argentina's Juan Ignacio Chela 3-6, 6-2, 7-5.

Tennis stars Andy Murray, runner-up in Washington on Sunday, dug out a 6-2, 7-6 (5) win over David Ferrer of Spain.

Kevin Kim rallied past countryman and 17th-seeded Bobby Gimpel 3-6, 7-5, 6-3, converting all three of his break points. Gimpel was seeded on Tuesday after his 6 Youth Hopeful withdrew with an upper back strain.

Germany's Rosie Grundmayer replaced Stepanek in the draw and defeated Belgium's Richard Vliegen 7-6 (2), 6-2.

Stanley Thompson, the Los Angeles runner-up and Washington semifinalist, topped Italy's Daniele Bracciali 6-0, 6-1, 6-4. AP

ROGER Federer: 14 aces

Northwoods, Eastridge rip Fed Golf foes

By Lea Gran Avena

Group 1: Eastridge 5-1-0-0, Dalmati 3-1-1-2, Forest Hills 3-1-0-2, Multi-Wood 3-1-0-2, Bicol 0-5-0-1

Group 2: Northwoods 5-1-0-0, Elmwood Hills 4-2-0-0, Valley 3-1-0-2, Sta. Elena 3-1-0-2, Lung Ang Bay 3-1-0-2, Alabang 1-3-0-1, Mimosa 1-4-0-0, Caliraya 0-5-0-1

COMING OFF BLOWOUT LOSSES, FORMER champion Royal Northwoods and Eastridge topped last year's runner-up Dalmati to advance into next Friday's quarterfinals of the Federation Golf League 2006 matches to earn one more week of competition.

Jesse Fontanilla and Lee Ojea Jr. took the high-low match on the first hole to complete Northwoods's domination of Tagaytay Highlands.

The big win which followed a morning loss to Mimosa last weekend sent the Baldemor scoring to the lead in Group 1 with three points to dealing the losing point for the sweep.

Boy Ungson-Isobel Mangalindan gave Northwoods, the 2006 champion, the first point by alternating the aggregate match (70-71, Ungson-Mangalindan) over Jason Inflorado's out by winning the remarkable 68(3) shot Boy Ungson-Bernard Jesse crossed the victory by clinching the game-some point (2 up).

After losing to Multi-Wood last week, Eastridge got back hard on their tournament in their return lunch.

The final team routed their Mandaluyong based foes with Andre Corrado-Bill Ramos (gross winner), Meg Sumulong-Eric del Rosario (high low) and Chino Espinosa-Jo-Jong de Pedro Lagrimas (counting 2-1 results and Jong Sarguela's long 1st-counting 1-48) wins to overtake.

Eastridge suddenly found itself leading the pack in Group 2 with 4 points, ahead by a point over Cleveland and defending champion Sierra Hills which battled to a close.

In another shutout, Elmwood Hills brought down sister team Manila Southwoods, 5-1, in a Group 2 match, scoring six wins by Andres Pinpin-Oca Serano, Thanh Jacquet-Bernard Salandali and Erwin Pelaez-Joey Arguelles.

BRAZIL'S Anderson Varejao (center) tries for the ball under the basket with Chris Bosh (left), Elton Brand (14) and LeBron James (blocked by Varejao) of the United States in the China Basketball Challenge in Guangzhou.

US five passes test vs scrappy Brazil

GUANGZHOU, CHINA — AFTER A PAIR OF BIG BLOWOUTS, THE US finally got some competition.

Carmelo Anthony scored 16 first half points and Kirk Hinrich added 14 more in the United States ground out a 92-80 win over scrappy Brazil.

"I think this is a great game for us and we needed that," said Atlanta Hawks g-pard Joe Johnson, who had 12 points and dished out the win from the free throw line.

"We needed to be tested, and tonight we deserved a lot of pride."

Down 16 points at the half, Brazil came after at the outset, scoring 16 consecutive points over our minutes to take a 50-32 lead. The slim total of the lead constantly through the quarter and it remained a three-point game into the final 30 seconds when Brazil began to come apart.

Hinrich came 8-for-10 from the free throw line, and hit two out of four three-pointers.

"It was a game of a lot of adversity for both teams," coach Mike Krzyzewski said.

"Our guys, I'm proud of them because they made winning plays down the stretch," Krzyzewski added.

Anthony helped as a blistering pace in the first half, giving the U.S. a 52-38 lead at the half.

But he slipped while chasing a ball to the sidelines, crashing into Krzyzewski, and left the game with a hyperextended right knee with 2 minutes 23 seconds left in the second quarter. Team officials said the injury did not appear serious.

With scorer stopping to off Anthony's exit, Brazil went on the attack. Guard Wellington Dos Santos flummoxed the American defense with his speed and passing, while Leandro Barbosa of the Phoenix Suns and 6ers Garcia respectfully drove to the basket. Both finished the game with 14 points.

The win follows two easy victories this month for the American — a 96-point win over China and 45-point drubbing of Puerto Rico — and offered a likely preview of how tough the competition will be at the worlds, which get under way in Japan Aug. 19.

"We invented the game, we sent our players and our coaches are so much [the world] and now they're chasing the cup," Jerry Colangelo, the US managing director, said.

The US now travels to South Korea before heading to Japan. AP

Another Tiger romp seen at Medinah

LOS ANGELES — IF FORM AND MOMENTUM guaranteed golfing success, there would be no need to engrave any other name than Tiger Woods on the Wanamaker Trophy for next week's PGA Championship at Medinah.

The world number one has triumphed in his last two events and, according to his caddie Steve Williams, has never swung the club better.

American Woods finished his 11th major title with a two-shot victory in last month's British Open at Hoylake, producing what he described as one of the best ball-striking weeks of his career.

In his next outing at last week's Buick Open, he is rising together four consecutive rounds of 66 to complete his 50th victory on the PGA Tour.

He racked up a career-high 28 birdies over the four days, largely because his putting and chances created with near-zero in impeccable order.

Perhaps of even more significance, his driving accuracy was an impressive 90.1 percent during the week, and this is the one department of his game which has so often been his Achilles' heel.

He has now secured victory in more than 22 percent of his professional starts on the PGA Tour, with 50 titles in 196 appearances.

If these statistics are not enough to induce a cold sweat in his rivals at Medinah, they can also ponder the fact that Woods won the PGA Championship the last time it was staged there in 1999.

Hardly surprisingly, the game's leading player is in upbeat mood as he prepares for the final major of the year.

"It sure does give you a big boost of confidence that the things you're working on are producing," Woods told reporters after his victory at Hoylake's Hills Golf and Country Club on Sunday. Reuters

WOODS

Lebanon still joining tourney despite war

BEIRUT — EVEN COUNTRY MAY be in the grip of bloody conflict between Israel and Hezbollah that Lebanon's basketball players are determined to prove that life can persist.

Israeli blockades have cut their home country off from the rest of the world and sports stadiums have been transformed into refugee camps but it will not stop Lebanon's participation in the upcoming basketball world championships.

The team named his unit for only 10 players.

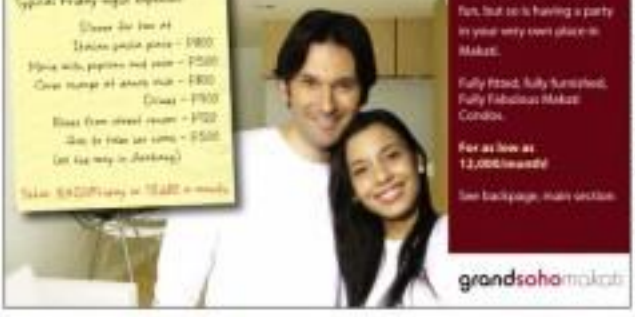
The country's football team have already had to pull out of the Asian Cup qualifying tournament while the country's club sides have an uncertain future in the Asian Champions League and Federation Cup.

But the basketball team have proved that sport in the country is not in a total standstill and have started on their road to the World Championships, from August 19 to September 2 in Japan.

Before the conflict in Israel and Lebanon erupted last month, the team had already secured the finishing to embark on a trip that took in warm-up tournaments in Istanbul, the Paris and Jordan, and Slovenia.

The team heads to the Philippines for their final preparation games before travelling to Japan.

Four years ago in Indianapolis, USA, Lebanon finished last. AFP



Leno grills Landis on Tonight Show

BURBANK, CALIFORNIA — TV show host Jay Leno didn't let Floyd Landis off easy, and the embattled Tour de France champion responded with yet another theory as to why he flunked a drug test.

Questioned by the "Tonight Show" host on Tuesday, Landis said the stress level he endured during the race "probably" ingested something that made him test positive for a high testosterone ratio.

"I see you on these shows and I do want to believe you and evidence seems ... I don't know if it's something — but it seems pretty conclusive, right?" Leno said.

LANDIS

Landis said yes, it was torn by the tests, and Leno shot back, "Why should we not go by the tests? Tell me why."

Landis responded that there were several possibilities, saying, "The tests and the people doing the tests would like you to believe that the only possibility is that I cheated, but it's not cheating and that's why the test is that way.

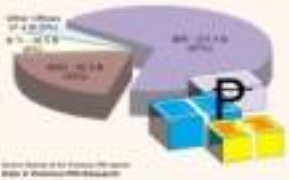
"Now there's also the possibility, and it's an argument that has been used by other people. At this point, I don't know if it's somehow or some way I ingested something that caused the tests to be that way." AP

BUSINESS
Editor Raul D. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Carrie S. Martinez

BSP seen to keep rates unchanged

INQUIRER MONITOR

Cash revenues almost P11 B above program
(January to June 2006, in billion pesos)



Monetary easing likely in 4th quarter

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS IS LIKELY TO KEEP ITS interest rates steady for the 10th straight month at its monetary policy-setting meeting today but may start easing by the fourth quarter given the downtrend in inflation, ING Bank said.

The US Federal Reserve's decision to pause its rate-tightening gave the BSP further room to keep its overnight rates unchanged, BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said yesterday.

"The Fed decision takes some pressure off interest rate differentials at least for now. This gives the central bank additional room for maintaining the current policy stance, considering that the inflation outlook indicates a decelerating trend," Tetangco said.

The BSP has kept its key policy rates steady at 7.5 percent rate for overnight borrowing and 9.75 percent for overnight lending since October last year.

Singapore-based ING Bank economist Joey Cuyegkeng said in a report dated Aug. 8 that the BSP would likely keep its steady policy a while longer.

"BSP's steady monetary policy is designed to ensure the achievement of the 2007 inflation target of 4.5 percent. With the latter pass-through of higher crude oil prices, the

BSP to

Gov't to intensify fight vs corruption, tax evasion

By Michelle V. Rosca

THE ARROYO ADMINISTRATION has formulated a blueprint for curbing corruption and tax evasion and has set a target of increasing by more than 300 percent the number of cases to be filed against dishonest public servants and taxpayers.

The blueprint, called the Threshold Country Plan (TCP), was submitted to the US government's Millennium Challenge Corp. (MCC), which has agreed to provide about $20 million in grant for the Philippine government's anti-corruption and revenue-enhancement drive.

The TCP is divided into two components—the strengthening of the Office of the Ombudsman and the intensification of the capacity of the Department of Finance in enforcing its anti-corruption and anti-tax-evasion programs.

"Corruption makes the job of

GOV'T to

IN THIS ISSUE

Breaktime
White pepper/B2

Motor
vehicle sales down slightly as of July /B8

Fed ends two-year campaign of rate hikes

WASHINGTON—THE FEDERAL Reserve yesterday called off the longest run of interest rate increases in its recent history, explaining that the slowing economic growth would vanquish the menace of inflation.

The central bank's Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) voted, with a lone dissenting voice, to keep the benchmark US rate of borrowing at 5.25 percent.

It was the first time since June 2004 that the bank has left the federal funds rate unchanged, a move that will please consumers and businesses in the United States and around the world.

But the bank did leave itself some room for maneuvers, having brought the headline rate up from a 46-year low of one percent to squelch energy-induced inflation in the world's largest economy.

"Economic growth has moderated from its quite strong pace

FED to

Currencies

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

As of 5 p.m., Aug. 9, 2006

As of 5 p.m., Aug. 9, 2006

GOLD: $636.30-636.50

per ounce/Hong Kong, Aug. 9, 2006

Stock Market

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

Stocks down slightly

STOCKS FELL YESTERDAY, LED by value-heavyweight Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., following a loss than—dollar rate and quarter earnings report, traders said.

"The market decline was primarily on disappointment over the earnings," CA Markets Securities president Nestor Aguila said.

STOCKS/ B4

Overcoming all obstacles.

The BMW X5 with xDrive and the BMW One-Year Deferred Payment Plan. Both designed to conquer any obstacle.

X5

Gov't workers wait for ax to fall in attrition law

Revenue agencies to give list of positions to be affected

By Michelle V Rosa

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL Revenue and the Bureau of Customs were told to submit before the end of the month to their respective list of positions to be subject to attrition.

This is in preparation for the implementation of procedures and the granting of monetary incentives to employees and officials of revenue-collecting agencies based on their collection performance under the Lateral Attrition Law.

The Lateral Attrition Law is one of the design administration's fiscal reform measures.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has instructed officials of the Department of Finance, head agency of the BIR and the BOC, to ensure that they comply with the law on time to overperforming revenue collection, the BOF said.

"The President herself made sure that the Lateral Attrition law is implemented this year, and that our revenue agencies shown when will meet their targets," Monsalvo said.

The Finance official added that since the 2005 Budget, the revenue collection figures of the BIR and the BOC by February next year, those that exceed their revenue targets will be given the bonus.

Monsalvo said many revenue personnel, especially from the BOC, were worried about the coverage.

The BOC said it had been meeting all its monthly collection target so far.

He added that the government would not hesitate to eliminate revenue personnel who will consistently fall short of their target.

Under the implementing rules and regulations of the Lateral Attrition law, an official or an employee of the BIR or the BOC may be dismissed from service if his or her revenue-collection performance falls short of target by at least 7.5 percent.

Those who will fall short of their respective targets by less than 7.5 percent may be reassigned to a new post by the commissioners, Monsalvo said.

Those who will be separated, however, can bring their case to the Civil Service Commission or the Office of the President if a presidential appointee.

The BIR therefore sees that the BIR and the BOC should they meet their targets, would each be entitled to monetary incentives equivalent to 15 percent of their basic salaries.

The revenue collection agencies will be entitled to more incentives if they exceed their targets by over 20 percent.

Rewards and incentives from the Lateral Attrition Law should be apportioned among rank-and-file and supervisory employees of each bureau in proportion to their relative contribution to the aggregate amount of the excess collection over the target amount of tax revenue to be collected by each bureau," according to the BIR.

The BOC is tasked to collect P197 billion in duties and VAT on imports this year, while the BIR is required to earn in 2005 a billion in taxes.

White pepper

HUNDREDS OF SUGAR planters from all over the country, who today are no longer the Hilo rich landowners of bygone years, are still on the doorstep of the BIR.

Yes, they continue to beg the simplest central bank for help, hoping to settle once and for all their problematic 30-year-old, marital-for-tax crop basis, by which they need their hard-cash accounted.

Representing the sugar plantation is Basilio Edroso of Masters Against Plunder in the Sugar Industry (MAPSI), one of the biggest—and most apprehensive—farm associations in the country.

About a year ago, MAPSI called on this new administration of Gloriaarro to step into its war with the BIF concerning the loans. It seemed, at this time, that the BIF was ignoring MAPSI's appeal for a compromise.

Under MAPSI's proposal, the BIF would waive portion of the penalties on the old loans, which by now would be more than 10 times their original amounts due to the piling up of the interest, plus the interest on the interest.

The landscape Republic Planters Bank originally provided the loans, PNB eventually absorbed RPB, and the loans were subsequently paid for by the debtor farmers' cane proceeds as collecting agent, PNB at present services the loans for the BIF.

Late last year, the PNB submitted its "counter proposal" to the BIF. Nothing has been heard from the BIF since, except that two months ago the BIF wrote to the sugar planters that it was still studying the whole thing.

Nobody can blame the planters if they think that the BIF is dragging its feet up to 2010. For one, what did the BIF need the "counter proposal" from PNB when, in fact, the BIF batch were involved? Come on, it should let up to the BIF.

Unless of course a "secret memorandum," i.e., dust, exists somewhere!

* * *

In an en banc resolution dated Aug. 1, 2006, the Supreme Court already denied, and "unanimously" so, that some parties involved gifts from a certain Mike Arroyo, a former solicitor general and also a board member of PNB.

The resolution said: "The Supreme Court justice has accepted any gift or any accession from [Dr. Jacobo Arroyo, the Court commissioner with Mr. Jacobo Arroyo had been identified along with the unfortunate members of this Tribunal."

The accession actually appeared in an anonymous letter, purportedly sent by a certain "Jose Tinio," in effect accusing the justices of corruption.

But the Supreme Court checked on the supposed sender, even sending a team of officers to verify the address (which of course did not exist) and concluded from it was a "fictitious" person.

The Supreme Court en banc said that such a memo, i.e., the sending of anonymous letters and the circulation of "subterpoc" only serve to demean the Supreme Court.

But the question is, how were the "gifts"—which were sent to the justices of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals, plus the senators, the Office of the President, and "media" too specific media outfit was mentioned—sent and/or received? Were detailed spots on points since reference were. Hmm.

That, the Supreme Court justices believe that somebody is behind what they considered to be black propaganda.

"Let those irresponsible persons or persons in MAMSEI [emphasis our mine] that the Court shall use heavens to take the necessary steps to protect the integrity and dignity of the Philippine Judiciary unless we can unravel," the resolution said.

That's all in the record. The justices actually knew the group peppering everybody with those anonymous white paper attacks. And soon for the group, you think?

* * *

The London-based voting agency for banks, the so-called "Fitch," gave the local Security Bank a rating of "BA minus," which is perhaps the highest rating that Fitch has given any bank in this country.

Dear bowwow or girls, if you check the Fitch symbols, you may find banks with "BB" or even "CCC" ratings.)

Well, just in the first half of 2006, Security Bank already notched its earnings for the full of the 2005, posting more than P1 billion in net income.

That means, for the sake of our beloved conglomerate, stock market investors are looking at the bank to net some P3 per share in only six months, compared with P1 last year.

Fitch Ratings said in its report that Security Bank has taken steps to improve the quality of its assets, mainly through restructuring and recovery.

At the end of 2005, the bank's NPL non-performing loans was augmented to 4.1 percent of total loans, albeit "still sufficient reserves averaged at 132 percent."

By the end of last June, in comparison, the NPL stood at only 4.2 percent.

And that, ladies and gentlemen, the dropping NPL ratio is the trend in other banks as well.

It should tell you that corporations in the main business of banking—loans to good borrowers—is going to heat up soon. The banks are getting more aggressive in lending.

* * *

Word has it that the ex-wife (or almost-ex-to) of a handsome devil of a congressman decided that she should not cream up the couple's hard account, aside from piling up credit card debts of more than P1 million.

According to our info from Congress, the high maintenance woman also managed to raise a lot of eyebrows in the chamber when she attended the recent State of the Nation Address.

And all that, after she was fired from her job as a financial institution which also filed criminal cases against her. To think that this is about to have his personal life exposed anyway, plus a new house and all that financial strain!

BCDA criticized for taking over Poro Point

THE BASES CONVERSION DEVELOPMENT Authority (BCDA) appears to have ignored the opinion of its own general counsel, who said that there is an legal basis for the transfer of its contract with private investor Bulk Handlers Inc. (BHI) which operates the Poro Point seaport and bulk terminal as part of the Poro Point Industrial Corporation (PPIC) consortium.

The decision came on the heels of the BCDA's refusal to honor the Poro Point seaport and bulk terminal in San Fernando, La Union. The BCDA now wants to take over the facility, stopping the agency and its subsidiary Poro Point Management Corporation (PPMC), from taking over the facility from BHI.

BHI was awarded the contract for the management of the port by BCDA in 1999, following a public bidding. BHI then formed the PPIC consortium's partners with BCDA and its subsidiary Poro Point Management Corporation (PPMC).

PPIC president Jun Moran said that at only in October 2002, BCDA general counsel Atty. Genaro de Saint Aubardel, a nonparticipant legal study which concluded that even termination of the contract with BHI would have no such basis.

Moran added that Genaro's had opposed opponent internal efforts at the BCDA to junk the Poro Point deal. He said a 2004 memorandum by Genaro to discount the BCDA counsel's strong opposition to moves by some BCDA officials to take over the facility.

Moran said he turned over one of the facility for unit strong signals that the BCDA is "willing to disregard court orders and the legal processes in relation to with our legitimate private interests."

RP continues to push tuna exports to Japan, Europe

By Rocel W. Domingo and Christian A. Supluzan

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ARE BENT ON increasing Philippine exports of smoked tuna to Japan and said a nine-year ban that has not the local industry's total of some $1 billion.

Committee Jun Rep. Luis Villaluerte, who chairs the House committee on aquaculture and fisheries, said the country's trade accord with Tokyo would open greater market access for all key Philippine merchandise exports, particularly smoked tuna.

"We should focus on effort in broking a shipping export initiative that runs roughly $200 million a year and directly supports the livelihood of more than 150,000 Filipinos," Villaluerte said.

Villaluerte said that since the US Commerce Department and the US Food and Drug Administration have allowed smoked tuna imports from the Philippines, there would be no reason for Japan not to accept shipments.

The provision to ensure shipments of smoked tuna is contained in the pending Japan-Philippines Economic Cooperation Agreement.

Villaluerte said that a resumption of exports would boost the economy of Mindanao, where the country's tuna export industry is concentrated.

Tokyo's Department of Health and Welfare has barred the shipments from the Philippines, declaring that the fillet smoking process used to make smoked tuna is a health hazard to Japanese consumers—a claim industry observers have dismissed as "bogus."

Japanese authorities have declined requests from the Philippine Department of Agriculture to lift the ban. They insist that current economic realities is a predetermined food of dolphin-safe Japanese laws.

Also, the Philippine government is hoping to appeal before the World Trade Organization the European Commission's decision to lower the allowable maximum lead content in fish and other aquaculture products that are shipped to Europe.

The Department of Agriculture (through its attached agency the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources), will also move to the Food and Agriculture Organization to persuade the European Commission to revise the new standard, which is opposed to drag down Philippines exports to the continent.

Europe has lowered the allowable maximum lead content to 0.6 parts per million (ppm) from 0.10 ppm.

Europe accounts for 42 percent of the Philippines' $400-million annual tuna exports.

In 2005, the EU imported 1.1 billion euros worth of fish and fishery products from Southeast Asia.

Later this month, a team from the European Union will again inspect tuna nursery and other facilities in General Santos City to see if improvements have been put in place to meet European safety and other quality standards.

General Santos City is home to six of the 10 tuna canneries exporting products to the country.

Globe's IDD promo extended

By Rizz T. Olivencia

GLOBE TELECOM INC. HAS EXtended its P1.99 International Direct Messaging Service (IDD) call promo until Sept. 1, after obtaining permission from the National Telecommunications Commission.

The 1080 promo allows Globe and Innove subscribers to send a P1.99 international SMS to Singtel Mobile without using any special prefix and requiring no registration.

The IDD promo, nonreloadable, allows Globe postpaid/prepaid and Touch Mobile subscribers to place calls to the United States, Canada, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, China, South Korea, Thailand, Taiwan, Australia, the UK, and Kuwait, at a per-second rate of P0.0033.

The regular per second rate is P0.00667.

For Globe G-Plus subscribers (postpaid), the IDD rate charged on their bill will be based on the applicable duration and exchange rate. For Globe Handyphone (Prepaid and TM subscribers, a flat P7.50 rate per minute shall be deducted from their load.

For the US and Canada, the IDD promo is valid only between 11 p.m. and 5:59 a.m. It caters the qualified for the discounted IDD rate upon dialing the required prefix 1219 08.

Globe postpaid/prepaid and Touch Mobile subscribers can also avail of the IDD promo when making calls to Singtel Mobile subscribers in Singapore, HK CSL (Hong Kong), Maxis Malaysia and Taiwan Mobile.

A subscriber qualifies for the discounted IDD rate upon dialing the correct prefix 1219 08.

There is a different rate for calls to Japan and the Middle East. IDD prepaid subscribers who are registered Globe Kaibigan members can place calls at the regular at P0.0133 per minute.

Transco seals P20-M deal with distributors

By Abigail L. Ho

THE STATE-RUN NATIONAL TRANSmission Corp. has inked two purchase agreements with Cebu power distribution companies Visayan Electric Co. and Visayan Electric Co., for P20 million worth of sub-transmission assets.

Also bought P113 million worth of Transco's sub-transmission assets, including one 115.0 kilovolt (kV) and seven 69-kV lines spanning 7.91 circuit kilometers in Mandaue and Mactan, as well as 0.0 transformers.

The agreement, Transco president and chief executive Ana Dray said, would allow the power distributor to provide reliable electric service in its franchise area, which included Lapu-Lapu City and the Cordova municipality.

The Meco contract was the seventh for Transco involving a Visayan distribution utility.

The deal with Veco, on the other hand, involved the 8.6-circuit-kilometer-long Banilad-Mandaue 69-kV line worth P6.1 million.

Veco signed 81 first sub-transmission asset sale agreements with Transco for January 2005, involving P171.75 million worth of assets. This represented the biggest single cash purchase since Transco started selling its sub-transmission assets more than two years ago.

The Abaria-owned Veco is the country's second largest distribution utility with more than 275,000 customers in the cities of Cebu, Mandaue and Talisay, and the municipalities of Minglanilla, Liloan, Talisay, Minglanilla, Naga and San Fernando in Metro Cebu.

Following the signing of the purchase agreement, Transco would submit them to the Energy Regulatory Commission for approval.

Dray said the approval of the regulatory body will "Transco be able to transfer the ownership, operation and maintenance of the sub-transmission assets to Meco and Veco.

RP banking system seen to cope with Basel 2

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRALNG PILIPINAS requires the local banking system to handle the shift to risk-based capital adequacy requirements of Basel 2, which shall take effect starting July 1 next year.

Recently, the BSP has issued the implementing guidelines for the Basel 2 accord, which mandates the new banking capital adequacy ratio (CAR) requirement of 10 percent, but tightened the capital charges against actual credit exposure, market risk and operational risk.

The guidelines will cover universal banks, commercial banks and their subsidiaries and affiliates. Thrift banks, rural and quasi-banks will continue to be governed by existing regulations as far as credit risk measurement is concerned.

"The Monetary Board's early approval of the implementing guidelines for Basel 2 underscores our commitment to deep and far-reaching banking reforms to strengthen the banking industry," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

"It also reflects our basic confidence in the fundamental soundness and ability of the industry to make the necessary adjustments to be fully compliant with international standards."

Basel 2 is a revision of Basel 1. The risk-based framework includes explicit capital requirements more risk-sensitive. It imposes specific capital charges for credit deterioration, securitization exposure, counter-party risk in the trading book as well as operational risk.

The operational risk, the BSP approved, is the biggest single risk capital requirement is expected to have the most significant impact on banks' overall capital requirements, according to the BSP.

The new framework now also imposes capital charges for foreign currency denominated credit exposure vis-à-vis Philippine government, or BSPs, which previously were given zero-risk weighting.

The BSP estimates the total capital requirement for these high-yield exposures has detected market incentives and has led to the rapid accumulation of investments in BOP-US banks.

But the adoption of the capital requirement on BOPs will be carried out gradually to avoid any sudden and intense market disruption. One-third of the capital charge will be required for exposures starting July 1, two-third starting Jan. 1, 2008, and full capital charge starting Jan. 1, 2009. This is equivalent to calculated capital charge of 3.33 percent, 6.67 percent and 10 percent by 2009.

This is based on the current percentage credit rating of the Philippines. The BSP said the capital charge may decline in the event that the country gets a sovereign investment grade rating.

Peso-denominated government securities will continue to be zero-risk weighted.

While the implementing guidelines were released to sub-Philippine conditions, Tetangco said these did not compromise on the tenet tenet of reforms.

"We fully realize that Basel 2 changes in a fundamental way how our banks operate in the future and how they are supervised. Such is regulation," Tetangco said. "We urge our banks to step up to the challenge and take a proactive stance of building prudently robust and enduring financial institutions rather than just holding at the regulatory or compliance level."

Tetangco said that such a move, i.e., the sending of anonymous letters and the circulation of "subterpoc" only serve to demean the Supreme Court.

But the question is, how were the "gifts"—which were sent to the justices of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals, plus the senators, the Office of the President, and "media" too specific media outfit was mentioned—sent and/or received? Were detailed spots on points since reference were. Hmm.

That, the Supreme Court justices believe that somebody is behind what they considered to be black propaganda.

"Let those irresponsible persons or persons in MAMSEI [emphasis our mine] that the Court shall use heavens to take the necessary steps to protect the integrity and dignity of the Philippine Judiciary unless we can unravel," the resolution said.

That's all in the record. The justices actually knew the group peppering everybody with those anonymous white paper attacks. And soon for the group, you think?

* * *

The London-based voting agency for banks, the so-called "Fitch," gave the local Security Bank a rating of "BA minus," which is perhaps the highest rating that Fitch has given any bank in this country.

Dear bowwow or girls, if you check the Fitch symbols, you may find banks with "BB" or even "CCC" ratings.)

Well, just in the first half of 2006, Security Bank already notched its earnings for the full of the 2005, posting more than P1 billion in net income.

That means, for the sake of our beloved conglomerate, stock market investors are looking at the bank to net some P3 per share in only six months, compared with P1 last year.

Fitch Ratings said in its report that Security Bank has taken steps to improve the quality of its assets, mainly through restructuring and recovery.

At the end of 2005, the bank's NPL non-performing loans was augmented to 4.1 percent of total loans, albeit "still sufficient reserves averaged at 132 percent."

By the end of last June, in comparison, the NPL stood at only 4.2 percent.

And that, ladies and gentlemen, the dropping NPL ratio is the trend in other banks as well.

It should tell you that corporations in the main business of banking—loans to good borrowers—is going to heat up soon. The banks are getting more aggressive in lending.

* * *

Word has it that the ex-wife (or almost-ex-to) of a handsome devil of a congressman decided that she should not cream up the couple's hard account, aside from piling up credit card debts of more than P1 million.

According to our info from Congress, the high maintenance woman also managed to raise a lot of eyebrows in the chamber when she attended the recent State of the Nation Address.

And all that, after she was fired from her job as a financial institution which also filed criminal cases against her. To think that this is about to have his personal life exposed anyway, plus a new house and all that financial strain!

5 Japanese firms to invest in Cebu

CIPC says IT companies will start small, help local universities

By Irene S. Sinco-Cruz
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—FIVE JAPANESE INFORMATION technology companies have expressed interest in expanding their operations in Cebu, Cebu Investment Promotion Center (CIPC) managing director Ariel Matt S. Tu said.

The Tokyo-based companies were identified as Bell Int Co. Ltd., Hillior Co. Ltd., Solliant Systems Japan, Data Application Co. Ltd. and Cyber Bee Co. Ltd.

While some of these companies plan to set up only small operations here, Tu said that area ideal for Cebu alone it has yet to build its capability to meet their skills requirement.

"We don't really have the capability to provide 2,000 programmers, for example," he said.

Still facing these companies would help Cebu show that it can handle IT investments, other than call centers and business process outsourcing, Tu said.

Bell Net, a software engineering company, is engaged in such IT services as computer system operational support, helpdesk and desktop services. It's consulting and education services is centering on production and digital broadcast content production.

It has already set up a temporary office in Cebu, with a P10 million capitalization, 20 full time staff and 100 contract IT engineers and designers, Tu said.

Bell Direct executive officer Toshio Onishi, sales director Masaya Ajiki and project division manager Shiro Hirai in Filipino 'B' (segment) met with Cebu City Mayor Tomas R. Osmeña during the latter's visit to Miyazaki last June.

The company's business for IT engineers with Java and C++ language skills and technical support and maintenance engineers for desktop with Japanese language level 2 skills, he said.

The 10 Part, with a capitalization of $1.6 million and 1,000 employees, offers consulting, system design, software development, hardware, computer system management and other IT-related services.

The company plans to hire and train engineers for three years and set up a training school here later, he said.

The Solliant Systems is engaged in software consulting, IT security and software development.

To end the company has asked for CIPC's assistance in setting up partnerships with different universities in Cebu to develop Unified Information and Computing Service, a computer operating system and Japanese language courses. The company plans to come up with Real-time Unix online satellite credit production of this course.

The company is offering an Open Source for free to different Cebu universities in which for acknowledgement of their contribution, he said.

Yu said CIPC is getting in touch with Cebu private schools and universities in Cebu and arranging meetings with different government and nongovernment agencies involved in IT development. Tentative business executives will be coming in September or October that year, he added.

The Data Application Co. is a provider of various products including communication middleware and other IT support services. Its core business is network systems development. It has 161 employees and has a capitalization of 200 million yen.

Data Application president and chief executive officer Reiji Hashimoto, corporate strategic planning and administration division Toshikazu Nagai and manager Shigeru Yoshida met with Osmeña and the Cebu City delegation in Tokyo last June 26.

According to Yu, the company plans to start its project here by October this year.

The Cyber Bee Corp., which has an 89-million yen capitalization, is involved in the development of the world's first commercial SDL online database Cyber Science and the development of SMG database using mobile units.

XML stands for extensible markup language, a simple and flexible text format designed for use in large-scale electronic publishing. It is also used in the exchange of data on the Web.

DO YOU NEED COST - EFFECTIVE HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS ?
We can help you!!!
Admissions • Patient Billing • Cashiering • Patient Discharging • Accounts Receivables Management • Nurse Order Management • Ancillary Units Data Base Management
DIGIMARPO CONSULTING CORPORATION

BOSE
CLEARANCE SALE!
up to 60% OFF on selected models
AUGUST 11, 12, 13
Unit P-1 Pos Square Building
63 Connecticut St., Greenhills, San Juan

UDA chose cars colored in warm gold tones in Davao

Plant rubber trees, governor urges OFWs

By Charlie C. Inciong
Inquirer Mindanao

GUIMARAS CITY—MORTA COSTALES Del Monte Philippines called on overseas Filipino workers to consider planting rubber as an alternative source of livelihood.

"There's easy money, and a bright future that awaits those engaged in rubber production," he said during the recent graduation ceremonies for rubber technology students at the University of Southern Mindanao in Kabacan, North Cotabato.

Dilod said his province is an example of how rubber can lead to economic development.

He said how being the country's fifth poorest province in 1998, North Cotabato moved forward to become the country's 20th most progressive province, as ranked by the National Statistics and Economic Board (NSCB), because it is one of the country's biggest producers of rubber.

He said as the rubber industry grows, its effects would also be felt towards those not actually engaged in planting.

"A million hectares planted to rubber in the country would mean 500,000 more jobs in the plantations alone. It not add the skills needed to produce latex emphasize like tapping, latex, shipping, the sector would need not to 1.5 million jobs," Dilod said.

Based on current market prices, unprocessed rubber can be sold at P42 a kilo.

The source that chairman of rubber plantation needs to earn up to P60,000 a year based on estimates by the Department of Agriculture.

100 MAKE YOUR 1ST GROW
INVESTMENT | INTEREST RATE
P 10,000 - 99,999.00 | 0.25%
P 100,000 - 499,999.00 | 0.25%
P 500,000 - 999,999.00 | 0.25%
P 1,000,000 - 4,999,999.00 | 0.25%
P 5,000,000 - up | 0.50%
BANK OF COMMERCE

Manila port take up

FOR THE SEVENTH time this year, the Port of Manila under Gaudens Collector Antonio P. Sevilla has extended an incentive collection target in July.

The Port of Manila collected P8.7 billion in customs duties and taxes in July, 2.66 percent higher than its target of P8.4 billion.

The latest figures brought the Port of Manila's total collection since January to P59.6 billion, well above the target of P58.4 billion.

The Port of Manila accounts for 26 percent of the customs collection of the Bureau of Customs.

The 13 other customs districts account for the remaining 74 percent.

Supervising collection of the Port of Manila's collection performance to close monitoring of shipments bound for exporting, storing, losing and customs bonded warehouses to prevent smuggling, the nation of seized and abandoned cargoes, and toughness in dealing with importers with arrears.

Send roaming instantly
JOR

ransCo
Republic of the Philippines
National Transmission Corporation
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
Supply and Delivery of 16 Port Architrave, GMC Module and HDMI, Network Bridge Extender
(Reference No.: PB0601-16-GMC)
The National Transmission Corporation, Quezon City, Philippines (TRANSCO) invites eligible contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Supply and Delivery of 16 Port Architrave, GMC Module and HDMI, Network Bridge Extender. Only contractors who are pre-qualified in accordance with the provisions of the GMC shall be allowed to bid.
The TRANSCO will issue tender documents to pre-qualified contractors upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00).
Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act (R.A.) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and its implementing Rules and Regulations. Bidders should have completed, within the last five (5) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Supply and Delivery of 16 Port Architrave, GMC Module and HDMI, Network Bridge Extender. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section 23 of the Bidding Documents.
Bidders should have a minimum financial capacity of Fifty Million Pesos (P50,000,000.00) supported by a Bank Certificate.
Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184.
Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183.
Prospective bidders may obtain further information from TRANSCO and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00). The Bidding Documents shall be received only from those bidders whose eligibility has been approved. It is recommended that all bidders should attend the pre-bid conference.
The TRANSCO will hold a pre-bid conference open to all interested bidders on August 21, 2006 @ 10:00 a.m. at the same address below. Prospective bidders are advised to confirm their attendance to the pre-bid conference.
Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before September 4, 2006 @ 10:00 a.m. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the following forms and amount:
Form of Security | Amount
A. Cash, cashier's check, certified check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit | 1% of ABC
B. Bank guarantee | 2% of ABC
C. Surety bonds callable upon demand | 5% of ABC
D. Foreign government guarantee | 5% of ABC
If a bid security amount is in Peso, a reasonable currency is the Philippine Peso.
Bid opening shall be on September 04, 2006 @ 10:00 a.m. at the Transco Conference Room. Late bids shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.
The National Transmission Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to accept any bid that is most advantageous to the Government, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.
National Transmission Corporation, Head Office, Region
Mr. Armando M. Ochoa, BAC Chairman
BAC Office, 3rd Corporate Blvd., Bldg.
Power Center, Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road
Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No.: (632) 897-2233 / Fax No. (632) 920-9430
Website: www.transco.ph
(Sgd.) ARMANDO M. OCHOA
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

AIM ASIAN CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP
Enhance your potential
VIE VENTURE INTO ENTREPRENEURSHIP
Designed for people with a vision for success, the VIE program is for aspiring entrepreneurs and start-up business owners looking for new business opportunities and wanting to acquire entrepreneurial skills to build the enterprise of a lifetime and more more.
BUILDING THE ENTREPRENEURIAL CHARACTER
August 15 to 25, 2006
Do you have what it takes to be an Entrepreneur?
• Discovering your potential: a self assessment of values and preferences
• Learn to break and think critically
• Develop the entrepreneurial mindset and kindle the entrepreneurial spirit
• Opportunity seeking and screening
• Business themes and options
• Entrepreneurial Games
BUILDING ONE'S ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS
Sept. 5 to Oct. 17, 2006
Do you want to hone your business skills and expertise in the four management functions?
• Product/Service Concept Development
• Assessing Market Potentials: Market Research Tools - Determining Market Feasibility
• Product Development and Operations Planning - Matching Product to Market Needs - Quality Delivery and Productivity Models
• Organizing for Implementation
• Finance for Start-Ups
• Group Exercises and Field Learning
BUILDING THE ENTERPRISE
Nov. 7, 2006 to Jan. 6, 2007
Do you need to learn the art and science of enterprise planning and implementation?
• Enterprise Life Forces
• Environment Scanning
• Evaluation of alternatives and opportunity assessment
• Developing the Product and Market Entry Strategies
• Implementation
• Commercialization and Expansion
• Individual/Advisers Project Mentoring
For inquiries and registration call: Ms Lany Villanueva / Ms Gia Apolo
Tel: (632) 892-4011 to 15 ext. 147, 212; Telefax: (632) 813-1186
Email: pcmbm.vie@aimcenterfore.edu.ph; mapbm@aim.edu
EQUIS ACCREDITED
Asian Center for Entrepreneurship, Joseph R. McMicking Campus
123 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City 1260 Philippines
www.aim.edu

CAP overseer seeks court nod on rehab plan

More 'realistic and conservative' estimates

By Elizabeth L. Sandoy

THE REHABILITATION OVERSEER of embattled College Assurance Plan Philippines Inc. (CAP) has urged the Makati Regional Trial Court to approve the revised company's 2006 revised rehabilitation plan, which was believed to be more "realistic and conservative."

In a manifestation filed before Branch 61 of the Makati RTC, CAP rehabilitation receiver Manuel Bonoan Jr. asked the court to approve said rehabilitation plan.

CAP's case has been pending before the Makati trial court since it filed its rehabilitation bid way back in 1999.

For the first time in many months, a hearing was conducted on Monday by Judge Cesar Untalan of Branch 149, which recently took over Branch 61 as a rehabilitation court, to clarify CAP's revised rehabilitation plan and appraise comments from concerned parties by the end of this month.

Under CAP's 2006 rehabilitation plan, CAP will be in no position to engage again to boost the liquidity of its core fund, as the pool of assets to be used to settle the company's liabilities is also broken.

CAP's receiver also asked the proponent him to make known its other projections to reflect its true financial position. CAP's restructuring rehabilitation plan is based on reduced plan liabilities of P12,000 from P16,000 last year as a result of those affected turned out from plans.

The revised plan lists the following features: streamlined operations; introduction of "third growth" plans to stable replacements for traditional or open-ended plans; sale of assets such as shares in Bank of Commerce, bonds linked to the Metro Rail Transit system, and existing lots; and condominiums; maximization of resources; shareholders' contributions; equity; rehabilitation of subsidiaries; and the restructuring of corporate debts.

Under streamlined operations, CAP said it has reduced costs by P146.2 million, the cost as a result of the closure of detached marketing offices and the consolidation of several finance processing centers. CAP expects to generate additional savings as a result of the continued streamlining of operations.

Under the rehabilitation plan, CAP will also offer fixed value plans to replace traditional plans sold by plan holders. Depending on the type of the plans issued, CAP expects to pay benefits under what it calls "fixed growth plans" worth P13,000 to P162,000 over a four-year period. The benefits were computed using 6.5 percent rate. By the end of the plan, CAP will have a 10 percent compounded yearly income up to 2032. CAP also plans to pay a return on investment equivalent to 1.00 percent of the gross consideration prior to plan holders eventually entitled to those. Payment will start within six months after the approval of the rehabilitation plan.

CAP also hopes to raise P10.1 billion for its trust fund from the sale of its 18.7 percent stake in Bank of Commerce (P1.02 billion), the development and sale of real estate projects (P4.5 billion), the recovery of investments in Bel-Air Management Inc. (P1.66 billion) and a possible equity buyout by the government of MRT bonds in 2009 (P3.3 billion).

The receiver said it is now hoping to raise P1.03 million from major shareholders in the form of loans and subscriptions.

CAP is also planning to sell its equity in Comtact, CAP Life Insurance Corp., CAP Pacific Inc. and CAP Health Maintenance Organization Inc. and to affiliate Hi-Lo with Land. The sale of these subsidiaries may generate P324 million.

CAP filed its petition for corporate rehabilitation last August 2005.

BDO sweeps Asiamoney country awards

BANCO DE ORO UNIVERSAL BANK (BDO) and its wholly owned investment banking subsidiary BDO Capital and Investment Corp. (BDO) were recently cited by Asiamoney magazine as the best in their respective fields for 2005.

BDO Universal Bank was named "Best Domestic Bank," while BDC received the "Best Equity House" and "Best Debt House" awards. This was a first-ever sweep of all country awards by a single banking group.

In order to come up with the best domestic bank, best equity house and best debt house in each country, Asiamoney's editors alternate conducted a period of intensive market research, discussions with market experts, investors, business advisors and top-ranked research analysts.

As of March 31, BDO was the country's 3rd largest bank with total assets of P229 billion, and net loans of P87 billion. In terms of liquid assets, BDO ranked the fourth largest with P127 billion.

BDO Capital is the country's fifth largest investment house, with total assets of P1.2 billion as of March 31. BDC has led and participated in major capital markets transactions for both the government and private corporations in 2005. Total combined debt issue and total equity issue was P112.3 billion in 2005.

Asiamoney is a leading publication in the region, providing coverage and analysis of the financial and investment markets in Asia Pacific countries.

Gov't to intensify fight . . .

From page B1

the Philippine government handled. It is harder to implement reforms, to show results, and to win the support of the people," the governor said in the blueprint.

Activities under the first component—the enhancement of the services of the Office of the Ombudsman—include the formulation of a training program for its personnel, electronic lodging of its officials' statements, purchase of new equipment for the central office, and establishment of a mediation system that will help settle disputes that do not necessarily need legalization.

The second component, enhancement of the BOP's capacity, includes corruption and money laundering prevention and development of class programs; the Bayanan Integrity Protection Service (BIPS); the Bad After Tax Funders (BATF) and the Bad After The Smuggler's (BATS).

BIPS is where the BOP's investigators conduct lifestyle checks and files charges against suspected corrupt officials and employees of revenue-collecting agencies, especially the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs.

BATF is the program where the BOP and the BIR are supposed to file charges against tax evaders, especially high-profile individuals, to encourage the public to religiously fulfill their tax obligations. BATS is the program where the BOP and the BOC file charges against suspected smugglers.

Under the government's plan, the number of BIPS, BATF and BATS cases to be filed by authorities should increase to 171 percent from only 66 last year to a minimum of 200 next year.

Of the 105, the government should file at least 50 cases against public servants who violated the Revised Penal Code, 40 cases against smugglers, and 105 against suspected tax evaders.

The government said in the TCP that such positive was to "accelerate the pace of restitution and commission efforts to stamp out corruption, plug loopholes, increase top collection and channel resources to priority reduction programs such as health care, education and social services."

Stocks down slightly

From page B1

Tuesday saw a block sale of 3.2 million shares of Metrobank. The stock closed up 1.5 percent at P50.

Outsiders led gainers 41 to 40, while 16 stocks ended unchanged.

Analysts said Tuesday's decision by the Federal Reserve to leave key US interest rates unchanged was widely expected, but renewed uncertainty over the direction of US rates moving forward.

"There's still the specter of another 25-(basis) point tightening over the remainder," said Sibonbili Global Equities chief Rommel Bituin argued.

AP

Fed ends . . .

From page B1

realize that even partly reflecting a gradual cooling of the housing market and the lagged effects of increases in interest rates and energy prices," the FOMC said.

While inflation readings had been "elevated" in recent months, the panel said price pressures "seem likely to moderate over time" because of past rate increases and other factors it was monitoring.

"Nevertheless, the committee judges that some inflation risks remain," added the FOMC, leaving itself some scope to resume its campaign of rate hikes if needed in the months ahead.

"The extent and timing of any additional fi ming that may be needed to address these risks will depend on the evolution of the outlook for both inflation and economic growth, as implied by an ongoing basis review."

The decision to suspend the run of 27 consecutive hikes was not unanimous. One of the 10 FOMC voters—Kansas City Federal Reserve chief Jeffrey Lacker—voted to increase the fed funds rate by another 25 basis points.

Still, the rate-sheet prices rose on the bet policy to close lower on the Fed's indication that it would remain vigilant against inflation, even as it holds rates steady for now.

Asian stocks also fell yesterday despite a pause in US interest rate hikes as investors own a slowdown in the world's largest economy his reputation cautious Japan's Sony Corp.

The dollar, however, pulled up from two-month lows against the euro and Japanese yen, strengthening as a series of dour economic offer On Wall Street.

Oil prices were barely changed, but gold fell due to the dollar rebound.

"The question is whether the US economy is heading for a hard landing or a soft landing," said Jason Hennig, a dealer at Fortis Haven's Woon Investment and Securities.

"I think that if oil prices remain a bit, and we see no 7.0% inflated rate increases in the second half, a soft landing is more likely," he said.

AFP, Reuters

BSP seen . . .

From page B1

BSP to more cautious," Dayrit said.

He noted that second-round effects through increased transport fares could delay another round of higher inflation expectations and price adjustments.

The economist said other near-term concerns that may prevent the BSP from shifting away from a steady monetary policy included a politically volatile period related to impeachment and Charter change talks, as well as a seasonally weak peso in the third quarter.

The peso was briefly strained by the Fed's move, opening at 51.42 and hitting an intraday low of 51.61 before closing at 51.37 against the dollar, reversing almost flat from Tuesday's finish of 51.3365.

Speaker JC Bayan cited emergent bloodlines and the market had already factored in the pause in the Fed's monetary tightening in August but was still jittery over prospects of further hikes.

"There's one inflation is high, but it's the opposite for us here in the Philippines," he said.

"The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas expects inflation to taper off in the second semester and return to the targeted range of 4-5 percent by next year.

He said he would like to be biased for a 50-basis point hike but the Bangko Sentral ng ang considering at current levels as true therefore having difficulties rising past the month's high of 51.35/51.

Ayes said the local currency would likely continue its consolidation for now 51.25 and 51.70, but if it could push past 51.25, the market would test the 51/51.

The third quarter is usually a weak season for the peso because the country's importers test peaks at this time.

Empower your Stock Trading today!
Philstocks.ph
"Your ONLINE access to Philippine Stock Market"
CALL: (632) 887-8211
info@philstocks.com
FREE seminars on ONLINE stock trading every Tuesdays and Thursdays

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_inq@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Aries Rufino

Anixter offers affordable VOIP ready, scalable phone system

MAKATI. THE WORLD'S LARGEST distributor of communication products and an authorized distributor of Nortel in the Philippines and the Asian region, has launched a special promotional offering to help local small and medium businesses (SMBs) modernize their phone systems to be able to meet the telephony demands of their growing businesses.

For a minimal investment of US$1,224 or approximately P64,188 (less tax applicable), Philippine SMBs and branch offices can purchase a telephony startup kit, which includes the Nortel Business Communications Manager (BCM) 50, two analog trunks, eight digital phones and auto attendant. This limited offer is good until Dec. 15. These sales please their orders before Sept. 30 will also receive free voice mail worth US$400 (or eight units).

"Nortel and Anixter have bundled this special business telephony offering to provide local SMBs a 'business-in-a-box' solution that combines the best elements of high-end IP PBX phone systems, including edge convergence solutions and robust data networking for a very affordable price," said Wendy Bernal, enterprise director, Nortel Philippines.

The Nortel BCM50 helps reduce communications cost by combining separate voice and data services into one network, enriches customer experience through an auto attendant and voice mail features, and boosts employee productivity by enabling online collaboration inside and outside the office.

Nortel and Anixter have bundled this special business telephony offering to provide local SMBs a "business-in-a-box" solution that combines the best elements of high-end IP PBX phone systems, including edge convergence solutions and robust data networking for a very affordable price," said Wendy Bernal, enterprise director, Nortel Philippines.

The Nortel BCM50 helps reduce communications cost by combining separate voice and data services into one network, enriches customer experience through an auto attendant and voice

SCPL, HANGOLOOFT CELEBRATE JOINT VENTURE PARTNERSHIP

New multinational online game development firm E-Commerce Plaza Inc. (Ecplaza) and the Korean online game publisher Hangoloo Game Co. Ltd. recently celebrated their joint venture partnership at the E-Commerce Plaza Office in Pasig City. Leading the toast and handshake are (at the bottom of the photo, from left) Ecplaza president Ariel Inting; Hangoloo president Kim Jong Hyun; Ecplaza chairman Antonio Tiu; Hangoloo chairman Kim Jong Kook; Ecplaza president Alfredo Yao

BUSINESS

Motor vehicle sales down slightly as of July

By Russel N. Domingo

Assemblers still optimistic growth will kick in by year-end

MOTOR VEHICLE SALES DIPPED 1.3 percent in the first seven months, according to the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines and the Truck Manufacturers Association.

But the assemblers were optimistic that sales would gather steam toward the end of the year as they await a Supreme Court decision, which is expected to say, hold the ban against used vehicle imports.

Ganyo and TMA said in a joint report that 54,934 units were sold as of end-July against 55,655 units in the same period of 2005.

On the other hand, July sales increased by 2.3 percent to 8,001 units from the previous month's 8,401 units due to a growth in sales of light commercial vehicles and light trucks.

Ganyo and TMA-tied members were hoping that sales would pick up in the last months of the year amid expectations of a final Supreme Court ruling on Executive Order No. 156 which bans the entry of used vehicles into the country except in the freeport of Subic.

They also said removal of the 7% percent cap on future value-added tax input credits—which they also expect to push through soon by way of amendments to the reformed VAT law—could help spur growth.

From January to July passenger car sales went up 3.5 percent to 23,426 units from 20,759 units the previous year.

However, sponsors of commercial vehicles—comprised of multi-utility vehicles, light commercial vehicles, light trucks and medium and heavy—slipped by 4.2 percent to 31,400 units from 34,039 units.

Sales of AUVs went down by 12.5 percent to 13,750 units, while those of light trucks slid by 29.6 percent to 892 units.

Sales of light commercial vehicles—consisting of pickups, vans, compact sports utility vehicles—went up 4.9 percent to 16,458 units, while those of trucks and buses grew by 14.7 percent to 586 units.

In terms of total sales, Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. kept the lead with 35.6 percent of the market.

It sold 21,150 units the government seven months, up by 0.7 percent.

Honda Cars Philippines Inc. came in second with 14 percent of the market with sales reaching 7,665 units or 10.4 percent higher.

Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. placed third with 12.7 percent of the market, but sold 6,958 units or a 14 percent setback.

In the CV segment, Toyota grabbed 40.3 percent of the market while Isuzu had 28.4 percent and Isuzu Philippines Corp. had 14 percent.

Also, Toyota sold the most cars, grabbing 33.9 percent of the market segment.

Honda cornered 29.2 percent and Ford Motor Co. Philippines Inc. held 8 percent.

The country's only exporter of completely built units, Ford, dropped out 3,323 units between January and July of 2005.

Gov't gives ultimatum to Nagayama

By Michelle V. Rosca

THE GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN Nagayama Tabol Corporation, the winning bidder for the government's property in Nampeidai, Japan, until August 23 to pay the long overdue bid price of 400 million yen.

Failure to pay will leave the government to cancel the bid, according to Finance Undersecretary Lucia Arnaiz-Mendoza Jr.

The transparency Bids and awards Committee (BAC) has sent Nagayama last July 26 a notice saying that the service development contract should be signed by Aug. 11.

The BAC likewise told Nagayama that it should pay the 400-million-yen contract price within 30 days after the contract signing.

"If they could not pay within the 10-day period, then we can rebid the property," Mendoza said.

The government awarded the bid for the 50-year lease of the 2,400-square-meter Nampeidai property to Nagayama last December.

Nagayama won over its only competitor, Urban Development Corp.

The contract signing on the sale of the property, as well as the payment, should have been done last March, but Nagayama has not yet released the money.

The Finance official, however, said that Nagayama informed him that it intended to meet the deadline and that the delay in the signing of the contract and payment was due to some internal problems.

The unsigned contract states that the Philippine government will lease the property to Nagayama for 50 years, after which it would be returned to the government.

The contract also states that Nagayama will build a 17 billion-yen building on the Nampeidai property and that 22 percent of the building will be used for the exclusive use of the Philippine government. The government intends to use the space as consulate office.

The Nampeidai property has been vacated since the Philippine embassy in Japan transferred to the Roppongi district also in Tokyo during the time of President Joseph Estrada.

The Nampeidai property is just one of the Philippine government's pieces of property in Japan.

LOCAL residents of Davao Del Norte find collecting discarded bananas a decent source of extra income. They then end dry the bananas before selling them to a nearby flour processing plant. (MANOLO MIRANDILLA JR./DAVAO)

Your $ can earn more with
PSBank's HIGHER RATES

	Regular Savings	Checking Account	Peso Time Deposit	Peso Time Deposit
1 month	3.25%	3.38%	3.50%	3.75%
2 months	3.38%	3.50%	3.63%	3.88%
3 months	3.50%	3.63%	3.63%	3.94%
6 months	3.50%	3.63%	3.69%	4.00%
12 months	3.63%	3.69%	3.75%	4.13%

Open an account now at any PSBank branch nationwide!

PSBank US Dollar Time Deposit

RP firms get 10% of transcription jobs in Asia

LOCAL FIRMS PROVIDING OUTSOURCED medical transcription services have secured a tenth of all US jobs farmed out to Asia, and they are seeking an even bigger market share given the cost opportunities in the $25-billion market.

According to the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions, outsourced MT jobs from the United States were expected to grow by a fifth every year due to the increasing documentation demand to support reimbursement, risk management and the need for secure data.

Aside from this, the world's largest market for MT services is experiencing a shortage in medical transcribers because the number of retiring workers exceed that of replacements, who are not as skilled.

Also, IT industry experts indicate further growth in demand as some 6,700 hospitals in the United States are required to convert medical notes to electronic files.

Chris chief Felicitas Aguado-Reyes said this opens up opportunities for Philippine MT companies especially as the country's cultural closeness to the United States and the American educational system give our local transcribers an advantage in dealing with American clients.

Moreover, Filipino transcribers can process up to a thousand lines of information daily with a 98 percent accuracy rate.

Cimex is working with the Medical Transcription Industry Association of the Philippines to ensure bigger business deals from healthcare institutions in the United States through their participation in the 78th AHIMA (American Health Information Management Association) Convention and Exhibition in October.

AHIMA represents more than 56,000 educated health information management professionals who make and influence buying decisions.

The local MT industry is an emerging sector with its pool of low-cost but English-proficient and IT-skilled workers who have medical backgrounds and are familiar with US medical standards and practices.

The potential for growth is also founded on the industry's advanced and cost-competitive telecommunications infrastructure, which could deliver output to the US four to the 12-hour difference between the countries.

The industry employs about 3,000 professionals and offers transcription services for emergency reports, consultation reports, clinical notes, psychiatric evaluations, laboratory x-ray reports and discharge and rehabilitation notes using highly advanced software and equipment from the US.

According to the Philippine IT Offshore Network, a Philippine MT firm was awarded in 2003 the largest contract in the world.

In 2005, the country ranked third in the top BPO destination list based on Neal's Mapping Offshore Update. Russel N. Domingo

$200-M power plant set

By Abigail L. Ho

LOCAL FIRM MG MINING AND Energy Corp., through Subras Energy Philippines Corp., plans to invest at least $200 million to put up a 50-mw power plant near a mine site in Subras Bataan.

Subras Energy president and MG Mining vice chair Ruben Bonacorsi said MG Mining recently built a number of coal exploration contracts (CTECs) for coal-bearing areas covering 4,000 hectares with 400 million tons of coal reserves.

These coal sites, particularly the one in Subras Bataan, could be developed to fuel a 200-megawatt (MW) mine-mouth power plant, he said.

For another investment of between $50 million and $100 million, he said the company's Subras Bataan mines had the potential to produce around 300,000-700,000 tons of coal a year, enough to feed a 200-MW power plant.

"We expect to produce enough coal to fuel a power plant by 2012. By then, we want to close the power plant and the transmission system project where we can completely supply power to the demand centers," he said in emailing.

He said the company was in talks with possible buyers of the power that the plant would produce, including the Manila-owned Subras Light and Power Co.

Capstone de Oro Bataan Co. was another prospective buyer that Subras Energy planned to approach, he said.

If the National Transmission Corp.'s proposed Luzon-Mindanao interconnection project would materialize, the company could even expand its market to the Mindanao area Luzon, he added.

LIFESTYLE

Lito Chiki Banal-Ferreros

WEDNESDAY **3BU** ● THURSDAY **FOOD**

To market you shall go before learning to cook

A cooking school right where you can buy the freshest ingredients? It's a delicious idea whipped up by CCA and the Araneta Center

Text by Margie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Roger Ceniza

IMAGINE THE THRILL OF going to market with top chefs helping you choose the freshest produce then cooking with them. And imagine receiving all sorts of tips from your new marketing buddies—from how to make the most of your purchases to how to artfully arrange the resulting dish for serving.

With "Shop, Cook and Learn," the Center for Culinary Arts (CCA) Manila gives rooting enthusiast and hobbyists a fun and exciting way to sharpen their culinary skills.

The first of its kind in the Philippines, the program offers three courses at the second floor of Farmers Market, Araneta Center in Cubao, Quezon City, in the room that used to be the farmers' market administration office.

Location, location, location

What makes the program unique is its location, which is within a market where all the necessary ingredients for the dish will need are readily available.

"We want to demonstrate all fresh ingredients available and teach students how to choose the right ingredients for their recipes," says Rodilie Guerrero-Trinidad, CCA general manager.

Part of the hands-on course is a tour-around of the market, a walking tour with plenty of insider tips on picking seasonal ingredients at their freshest and choosing the best parts for chicken and beef dishes.

"It's 'Getafreeone' out here (a commonsay where students can simply get the ingredients. But here in the market, it's like real life. There's nothing better than showing them the different kinds of fish, meats and vegetables," adds Trinidad.

The location also makes it easier for students to have a better appreciation of the local produce.

Perfect timing

The CCA did not have to renovate the structure to open a culinary school within Farmers Market.

"We were actually looking for a place in a mall to make the courses more accessible to the public, but we also hoped for a place that would give us access to the ingredients. When the Araneta approached us with the concept of a cooked within a market, it was perfect for us," TUNAMEE CO

WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS

a world to discover

LOSE 16 INCHES IN 60 MINUTES AND ALL YOUR CELLULITES WITH BODY METRICS!!!

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP. 0% INTEREST! NO MONTHLY DUES! NO JOINING FEES! FOR CALLERS TODAY.

PERSONAL TRAINING FREE TRIAL!

ALL THE LATEST AEROBICS!

CALL US:
FITNESS & SKIN HOTLINE 536-3333
MOBILE 091-SLIMMERS (75466377)

SLIMMERS WORLD

BUY 1 MONTH GET 1 MONTH FREE!!! FOR CALLERS TODAY.
on Fitness & Aerobics Programmes.
NO JOINING FEES!
CREDIT CARD OPTIONS AT 0%.
MEDICAL SUPERVISION AT ALL CENTERS.

SAVE TODAY. BUY 15 TREATMENTS GET 5 FREE!!!

Introducing ENDOSLIM

The latest technology in slimming & firming from Europe...
MESOTHERAPY

www.slimmersworld.com.ph inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph

Century TUNA
a Taste of Tuna and Tradition
Culinary Meet
Cooking Competition 2006 Year 4
Come and witness a showcase of culinary talents, Filipino tradition and exciting tuna recipes. Join the fun and win exciting prizes.
August 12 to 13, 2006 at Market! Market!
Century TUNA Flakes in Vegetable Oil
Amateur Food Enthusiast
Grand Prize P20,000 Cash
HRM Students
Professional

To market you shall go before learning to cook

STUDENTS at CCA-Farmers Market Sunday School will learn how to prepare Arroz Con Pollo...

...MEET'N with Sautéed Seafood and Criss Fet...

...WHO HERB-CRUSTED Grouper Fillet with Tomato and Black Olive Relish, among others.

From page C1

ing," says Trinidad.

Each class has a maximum of 12 students and runs for four hours. Classes are kept small for greater interaction between students and instructors. They are conducted in a 120-sq-m well-equipped practical kitchen, with an impressive granite island that can accommodate up to 12 students. Ovens, four-burner stoves, a refrigerator and a freezer complete the kitchen, which has a wide glass panel that looks out to the market.

Two classes are held every day, each session costing P1,800, inclusive of ingredients, aprons, toque (chef's hat), printed recipes and lecture handouts with conversion table. A certificate of completion is given to participants at the end of the course.

Offbeat names

Right now, the school offers about 130 short-term courses. "We try to make the names of the courses as entertaining as possible, as opposed to the more serious courses in Kamputsan," says Trinidad.

"Nothing but Broth" covers different kinds of noodles. "Barbecue Galore" touches Africano, Argentinean, Brazilian and other Latin variations of barbecues. "Rainy Soup Pa" tackles bisques, chowders, cream, purée and pottage. "Fish Tales" is cooking with fish. "Gatuwakas" shows sushi making. "Lumayo ng Kompanya," bans making. "Stop Dieting!" breads and breakfast cookery. "I Scream!" whipped cream and dairy desserts. "Down in the Kitchen" is about Korean cuisine. And "Temptation Island" tempts with what else but chocolate treats.

"The nice thing about having classes right in the market is when students learn the recipes, they can buy the ingredients right away [to try the dishes] at home," Trinidad says. "And, more importantly, while shopping for the right ingredients in the market, the students can meet vendors and develop their network."

Clearly, enjoying their culinary creations after the marketing, cooking and socializing with the chefs is just a bonus.

Call CCA at 4378888 or 4377456 or e-mail marketing_farmersplaza@yahoo.com.

E-mail the author at rbaja@inquirer.com.ph

CLASSES are conducted in a clean, well-equipped practical kitchen that can accommodate up to 12 students.

STUDENTS are taught how to prepare and present cheeses, as in these individual servings of fruit, herbs and crisps Marina placed on Chinese soup spoons.

Summers of home-baked cakes

HOW DO YOU KEEP BEST-less sisters, eight of them, occupied during summers when there are no classes?

In my family, the answer was easy. Let the maids go on their summer vacation. Assign chores to the older ones. Clean the rooms. Clean the backyard. Take care of the younger ones. Wash the dishes. Wash Papa's car. Cook.

Wisely, my mother assigned kitchen duty to those of us who were interested. She must have learned from experience that an unwilling cook will never turn out good food.

Kitchen duty belonged to one of my sisters who must have inherited my grandmother's genes. I'm in between those two. My idea was to taste, not to critique, unless I didn't want to eat at all.

Bake off

But the highlight of summer wasn't what we ate during meals but the experiments while younger siblings napped.

Country Cooking

Mirdy Fenix

Polka dots and frostings

But it was decorating the cakes that we remember the most. It wasn't enough that the cake was frosted. Something more had to be done. When we discovered the colorful M&Ms, the sisters took on our preferred polka-dotted look.

When my baker-sister saw another design in a magazine, that version was used to death. For one year, the color always ended up looking like a butterfly. A small wedge was cut free from the round chiffon cake. That was the head, with antennae made of wires, handcrafted by the family.

The biggest portion was three cut in half. The meaty three were two big letter Cs. These were placed back to back to represent the wings, with the head sandwiched at one end. Again, the colorful M&Ms were used.

The younger siblings' favorite was the series of cupcakes that surrounded the simple cake. Each cupcake was decorated differently as the whole thing ended up more creative, certainly more colorful.

Yes all the experiments, however, were successful. There was one time when my sister used her hand as hand coloring. The icing ended up deep blue and no one seemed to eat the cake.

That reminded me of a younger sister's cake that my father bought in Boracay, La Union, his hometown where we were vacationing. It came with colors that were so stark so that the yellow flowers looked neon, the red roses were maroon and the green leaves were neon green.

I've heard these colors described as "Imelda Apostolic," the color of the Apostles' robes perhaps in Last Supper paintings by local artists or on images as religious processions. We all remember that color used effectively in the thought.

Perfecting the rolling

One summer, it was mostly Sisters de Mercedes. We had perfected the rolling of the egg whites and thought the rest of egg yolks was the best because it didn't contain condensed milk like the commercial versions.

I do remember that everyone gained weight from the "testing." But the one who can still do the Bench today is our youngest and only boy. He never participated in those baking sessions because he was too young. But I guess something bear this was done years later must have left a deep impression. He was also the one who benefited from all those experiments, birthday after birthday.

It was my brother who also had the first commercial cake probably because my chocolate stutters, no longer had time to bake cakes. He was dressed as a spaceman and to hit cake had about three rockets.

Our own children also started birthdays with commercial cakes. The boys had themes like a carnival and then superheroes, the Power Rangers being favored and Spiderman. The girls had Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, and Snow White and the Seven Dwarves.

Even my birthday cakes are no longer home-baked. We have two caveat bearers. There is Sweet's macaroon cake, always colored heart-shaped and filled with butter icing eaters. The other is Polly Wiley Gerber's chocolate cake that is also known as the Shell cheese. Her cake because it was first sold at the Shell station in Magallanes.

To this day in our family, birthdays are not complete without the cake. But the most memorable will always be the cakes we made ourselves during those summers when we never knew the word "bored."

E-mail the author at pinoyfoodie@yahoo.com

COMMERCIAL birthday cake featuring Barney.

A NOVEL way to name the cake

HOMEMADE cake to celebrate a first birthday

FRENCH Baker founder and CEO Jolmis Kossoth with Martine Petra-Kou

BLESSING. Parana Philippines country manager Bernard Paglinawan, executive vice president of European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines Henry Schumacher, French Baker founder and CEO Jolmis Kou, Commercial Counselor French Embassy of the French Trade Commission, Martine and Roger De Bacler, First Secretary Deputy Head of Operations Delegation of the European Commission to the Philippines, Finance Secretary Margarita Teves, SM Group of Companies chair Henry Sy Sr. and their grandchild Johnny Litton cut the ribbon.

Breaking bread

JOHOLU KOH'S NEWEST FRENCH BAKER occupies one of the best spots at the new SM Mall of Asia. Left of center from the main doors, his sparkling new flagship outlet has a dressy, retro appearance from the frontierpost where you can buy croissants and baguettes for take-out. This is Koh's 36th and biggest French Baker—in only 17 years in the business and it is proud position of what those pieces can do.

The bright and spacious dining area was designed by Annie Midrits. The sleek, modern interior was exactly what Koh felt his flagship store needed.

There specially configured plasma screens adorn the walls, each showing what's on the menu, the best-selling soup du jour in a bread bowl, hearty seafood pasta in white sauce, the ever-popular Chicken a la King in a flaky shell, even Korean beef barbecue served with bean sprouts.

French Baker also serves Germany's famous Tchibo coffee and the comforting goodness of thirstquench ice chocolate. Shoppers are helpfully hooked by the aromas.

As if the smell of bread baking is not enticing enough, Koh has spiced up his menu with hickory ribs, hamburgers, roast and quarter chickens cooked in a wooden oven.

And when there is the bakeshop, with its wide array of crusty breads, rolls, Danish pastries, croissants, sesame, pretzels and, worm additions, doughnuts. Every day the French Baker sells its baked products at 50 percent off the regular price 30 minutes before closing time because Koh wants to fill his counters with nothing but freshly baked goodies every morning. The long line of people at every French Baker store closing time proves the shop's popularity and assures the public of fresh products every day.

Besides freshness, another key to Koh's success is value for money. French Baker's prices are affordable, but you would have doubted this the night Koh opened his 16th store.

Dignitaries from the government and the business sectors as well as esteemed guests from the international community arrived to celebrate with Koh and with Marilou, and helped themselves to the French Baker's spread of delicious food, including a sinus-sized bowl. The rain wouldn't go away, but neither would the good cheer.

Finance Secretary Margarita Teves and SM Group of Companies founder and chair Henry Sy joined a smaller roll of guests in serving the inaugural red ribbon. After the ceremonial blessing and traditional celebratory toast, the SMs stood shoulder-to-shoulder and simultaneously cut a lavishly baked two-meter-long baguette topped with miniature Philippine, French, Belgian and German flags.

The French Baker has branches in and around Metro Manila, Tagaytay, Cavite and Metro Cebu.

AND NOW THE BREAD. Roger De Bacler, Schumacher, Pagliawan, Secretary Teves, Martine De Bacler, Atty. Koa and culinary expert Brenna Reynosa Dala cut the two-meter-long baguette

BLESS and upscale Tim French Baker flagship outlet at SM Mall of Asia

Prison Ministry willing to collect leftover food

By Linda B. Deliño

THE ASSOCIATION FROM BAKERS MAKES Cabela for food establishments to donate leftover bread at the end of the day to those who need it. Only 20 cabinet is exclusively supported by Host-terra "Sing" Balbuena, a member of the Prison Ministry of the Couples for Christ.

In her e-mail, Balbuena said the prison ministry was trying to make inmates feel that, though they were serving time for crimes committed, they were still part of society. "Their needs do not differ from ours. They are also hungry in body and in soul."

She cited reports pointing out the lack of food, space, medicine, clothing in prisons and detention places. "This (sharing leftover food) is one small step that can make a big difference," she said. "Leftover food from commercial establishments will not go to waste if these establishments are willing to give this away to our inmates... We work at Camp Sampaguita of the New Bilibid Prisons."

If there are restaurants and other food establishments out there willing to donate leftover food to Balbuena's group, you can contact the Prison Ministry coordinator, lawyer Beatriz Layson, at 7720996 or e-mail <beatchy@yahoo.com>.

Scares

You've got to hand it to scam artists. They never say die. Sender Ferrets Morales received a message congratulating her for winning P300,000 and a Toyota Altis as home partner (in what, the message did not say). The sender said he was with the Philippine Communication Society. When Morales's daughter-in-law called the number given to get more details on the so-called contest, asking about permits from the Department of Trade and Industry, and the date, the party on the other end could not provide answers and was annoyed that she was questioning him.

Another reader, Claire Aguirre said he/she received a text from Charity Foundation, apparently a very generous organization that had been giving away prizes to people who did not even know they had entered contests. "My sister received the same text message but we replied that the sender must send first his private number and other authentication details and that we have to verify with (the text sender's network) and the authorities the existence of the said person. We never got a reply."

Aguirre said they reported the incident to the concerned network and they were asked to report it to the National Telecommunications Commission. The network did not respond, sending us e-mail to NTC to report the case. They never heard from NTC.

That is why these scam artists continue to thrive—it seems no serious steps are being taken by both networks and government agencies to put an end to the racket.

This scam artists boldly give their numbers as they ask their victims to send them cash or phone cards.

The Consumer

The Department of Trade and Industry Region 12 office, in advising the public to be vigilant against these text scams, points out:

1. Messages come from ordinary 11-digit cell phone numbers, e.g. 09[7]xxx-xxxx, 09[8]xxx-xxxx, 09[2]xxx-xxxx, etc.

2. Winners are asked for cash allegedly to pay for taxes, etc., to transfer a certain amount through Smart Money, Globe Gcash, Metrobank Instapay, or send prepaid loads (or credits) to be able to claim the prize.

3. The subscriber wins without joining any contest or raffle.

Cold hotline

A reader said an electrical post across their house in Mandaluyong City suddenly burst into flames recently, and the fire started to spread to the cables. They called up the Manila Electric Company's so-called hotline, 6111111, but it was apparently not an hot office. They had to wait several minutes before the phone was answered.

Fortunately, they also called their barangay officials, and a fire truck arrived in about 30 minutes. "The Meralco people arrived after the blaze... the whole neighborhood might have burned (down)," by then," she said.

She is grateful to the good people of San Juan Barangay for being quicker on the draw than Meralco.

(For regular columnist, Marites V. Dimaculangan, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, China Roces Ave. cor. Macaraeg and Bagtas Sts., Makati City, PO Box 2033 Makati Central Post Office, 1252 Makati, or e-mail <lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph>—Editor)

SHELLEA PARTIES AT FILOS. The immediate restaurant at The Fort recently observed its first anniversary with special guests Lulu Tinio, Sonia Mathay, Dr. Toyet Pascual, Imelda Marcos, chef Ed Quimson, Billy King, Filos' owners Anne Dulay and husband Dr. Raymund Dulay, Prince Rino Habacon and Ms Marcos' lawyer James Lim. The latter was there especially for the 77th birthday of Ms Marcos early last month. Behind is publicist Louie Cruz

Dining out

Flavored rice, anyone!

ARCHIE MORI in Minneapolis offers a decently variety of flavored rice inspired by different Philippine regions and other Asian countries. Its offer are fragrant Coconut, Hinguard Rice, Indian Biryani Rice and Turmeric Rice. Other Asian specialties are Cashima Shrimp Salad, tender beef Stroganoff and Mara Spanish Seafood, among others. The new story Mori Mona has branches now to expand after some. The whole restaurant can accommodate 300-350 people. Mori-Mona is at Monticello, Oregon. Call 6334466 or 809 1005. E-mail <mona_mori@yahoo.com>

OSAWARU HOTEL's Hirabumi Japanese Restaurant offers the Hirabumi Set Menu worth for ?? 100++. It includes sashimi, salmon maki-zushi, tuna maki-zushi, and three main dishes of gindara teriyaki, fish cutlet, fried shrimp and a dessert of boiled mongo with ice cream. Call 8782000.

THE GARDENS Premier Asian Cuisine has breakfast buffet 6:30-10:30 a.m. The buffet includes cold, breads, eggs, cold cuts, pancakes, cheeses, fresh fruits and many more. Call 7250000.

TACO BELL'S Big Bell Value Menu for only P50 per item includes Bell Beef Chili Cheese Fritos, Cheesy Fiesta Potatoes and, for dessert, Churros. Taco Bell is at G/L and 3/L, Food Express, Robinsons Mall, G/L, SM South Mall, and F. Rodriguez Avenue, QC.

BENEO offers "Meals for 2," four different set meals at affordable prices. Spicy Fried Tofu and Pakbet Sarte (P200) for 2; eight pieces Californian Maki, Tofu Shake and two plain rice for P200; Set C: Chicken Teriyaki, Kalabaw Tamarind on two plain rice for P275. For delivery, call 8111111.

HERVEN '81 Eggs introduces the new Heaven's Dinner Feature: the Fresh Fingers "Bi-Colored Rings and Heaven's Pick '81 Crispy Basket. Also available are the Basket of Chicken, Bread vs Germany, Chicken Teriyaki and Tempura Basket. Heaven '81 Eggs has branches in DLB Building on Timog Morato, QC, G/F Glorietta 4, Puerto Circle in Eastwood City and Fiesta Market (Makati)

BLACKBEARD'S Seafood Island, at Fiesta Market (Makati), Fort Bonifacio Global City and at Shopwise Arcade, Ortigas Center, Cubao, offers the Grilled Flavor Rich Snapper. The restaurant's specialties include Bonito Feast, Dipidan's Pride, Magallan's Landing, Bonita Boodle, Manila Bay and All-in-one Bonanza. Call 8120781 or 8861682.

CRUSTASIA at G/L, Rockwell Power Plant Mall, Makati, and 2/F, The Podium, in ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, features Baked Hawaii with Mango Shakes, Must-try Dishes include Crab Kalamansi, Fidel's Pepper Crab, Szechuan Crab and Tong's Curry Crab. Call 7250463 or 4113851.

A paper chase and a search for frozen spinach

SO MANY UNANSWERED questions and requests for today is the day to deal with backlog! So sorry!

I saw a recipe for fish en papillote that calls for the use of parchment paper. Since parchment paper is not available here in the province, what substitute can I use? I understand aluminum foil won't work as it may react with the acids.

HOMEY

Aluminum foil may be used as a substitute but it all depends, of course, on the ingredients. If there are tomatoes, acid or even onions, it would not be a good idea. The best substitute would be wax paper or Glad's bake paper.

Speaking of Glad, if you love cling wrap, zipper bags and the like, you must get your self Prune's book. It's actually a reddish plastic wrap. It seals on a multitude of surfaces, even paper, wood, metal, styro containers and glass.

First time I got it, I just wrote it in crayon, sealed and inverted them, just to check if it really worked as shown in the photos on the package ... and it did!

Wanted to prepare a spinach dip for my visitors but couldn't find frozen chopped spinach. Can you please tell me where I can buy it? If there's none here in Manila, can you tell me what I can substitute for it?

SHIRLEY

Unfazed, Shirley's or head's if however, if you are desperate, you can select from Chinese spinach. It's called potcoy choy. Blanch it first then squeeze dry. Freeze until it is needed then thaw, re-blanch and squeeze dry again just before making your dip. Unfortunately, use local spinach in a tall pointy for the dip.

I'm 20 years old and a single mom. I'd love to have some "freedom" sense, you know, for extra income. I love to cook and will try anything that you suggest.

MISS CO

I really have no idea what it is you have in mind nor do I know what your level of cooking skill is, but I think pulverize is a good way to start. I've been saved a recipe for here on 48 for this is a variation. Chef's delicious. Besides, there are a couple of pulverize requests. It's easy and needs very little capital. Do these perfectly and you will be on rich. When you're rich, the man won't let you say single for long! All the best to you!

Chocolate-dipped Mixed Nut Polvoron

2 ¼ cups flour
2 ¼ cups powdered milk
1 cup pulverized mix of choice (I use 2 different kinds in half-cup increments. I like pine nuts and almonds or walnuts)

1 ½ cups sugar
1 ½ cups butter, melted

In a pan, toast flour and nuts until fragrant. Stop mixing to avoid uneven roasting or burning. The more you toast, the nuttier the flavor. I like mine just slightly toasted. Cool mixture slightly.

Add the rest of the ingredients, mixing well until all flour grains are visibly coated in butter.

Mold. Dip polvoron in melted chocolate.

Melt chocolate over a double boiler (bittersweet, white or milk). You can get all sorts of chocolates from Sweet Craft (3211393).

Let chocolate set on a rack and wrap.

Can I have your recipe for Korean beef stew? Its broken kanseki. If I use pressure cooker and turbo broiler, what changes will I have to make?

WILMA SOLIDO

Each of the names a I hardly use a pressure cooker and never use turbo. Use the pressure cooker, the procedure remains the same, only cooking time varies. For those asking if the same technique is used for crispy pata, yes it is!

Kalbitchim (Korean Beef Stew)

1½ beef ribs
2 tbsp sugar
1 tbsp sesame oil
2 tbsp rice wine
½ cup soy sauce
1/3 cup garlic
1 cup green onion, sliced
Combine ingredients.
Marinate beef overnight.
4 tbsp oil
water
Heat oil and sear marinated beef.
Stir marinade.
Add enough water just to submerge beef.
Simmer over low heat until tender.
Season to taste with sugar, salt, pepper.
Garnish with green onions and sesame seeds.

A few weeks back, I saw your recipe for cuttlings. I've been trying to get my hands on cornmeal but couldn't find any at regular supermarkets. Could you kindly tell me where I can get them?

TES BANPIN

Polenta is cornmeal and cornmeal is polenta. Or it may be confused with

PRESTO's Beef It works! No more spills!

Mona Sterton through Mona Sterton is a special kind of cook-thru used to make tortillas. It is also known as polenta. There are two kinds of polenta: stuff ground, which means harsh and gives have been removed (commonly available), and stone ground (available at health stores), ground with hull and germ, though this kind tends to have a shorter shelf life. I prefer the fine polenta for the cooking.

Well, Ted, again, (cannot fund to find them beside the cornmeal), Rosario's and, when all else fails, Sarah's Deli.

If it is possible, could I kindly have **contact details of Art Manuntag and Alex Estrada? I am interested in booking these performers.**

REGITTE SANCHEZ

You're not alone. People have been asking for their numbers, too. Here they are: Art, 0920-9289651; Alexis, 0917-7080407. When they sing, it feels like heaven!

E-mail the author at inquirer@inquirer.com.ph

Pot roasts & burgers

THE REGGIE ARPIA School of Culinary Arts will restart the following classes:

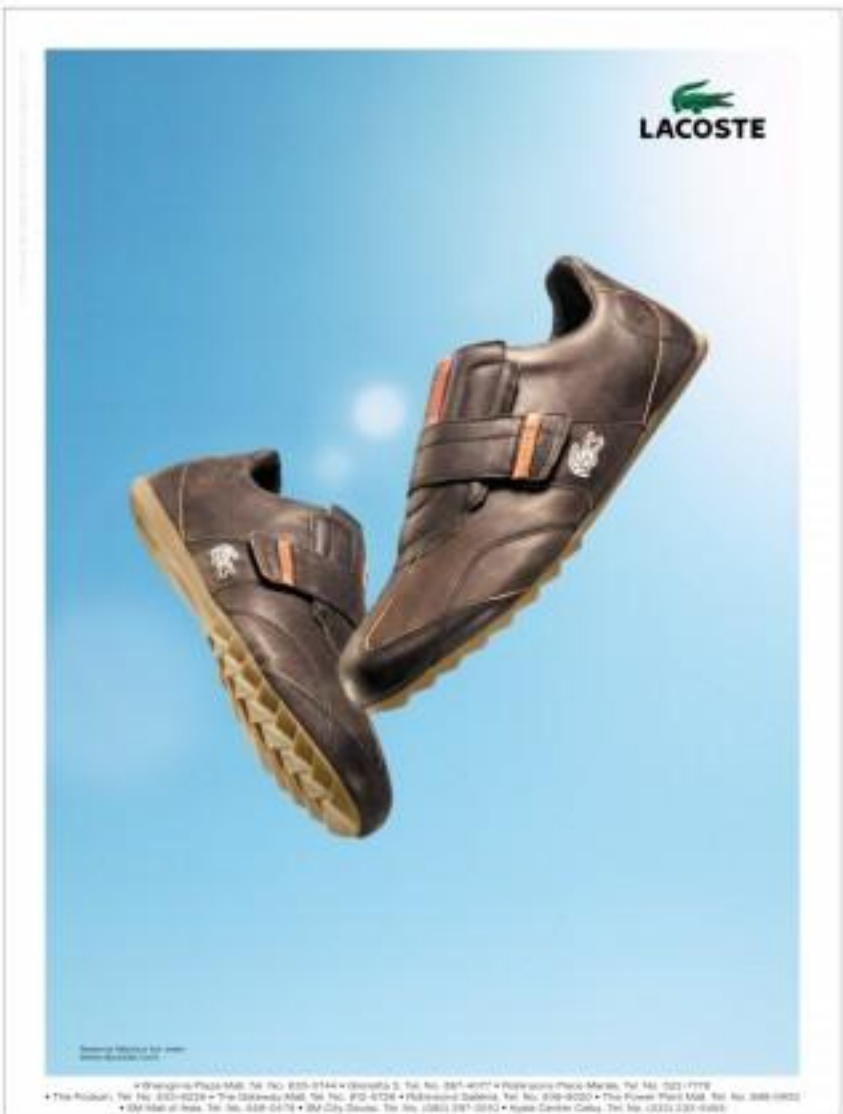
Aug. 11: Pot Stands...Four delicious recipes, yet none alike—Classic Pot Roast with Pilaf, Garlic Loaded with Garlic Rosarios Creamed Potatoes Italian style, with fresh pasta with parmesan and butter, Oriental with Noodles

Aug. 12: Burger Like Never Before (all new)—Homemade Bacon and Soft Bread, Best All-beef Burger, Chicken, Lamb, Mixed Meat, Emery burger. Glazed Corn on the Cob, Baked Beans, salad, sauces and condiments

Aug. 14: Delicious Party Salads (all new)—Million-aire's Salad of Lobster, Foie Gras and Duck Confit, Cold Noodle and Prawn Salad with Sesame Ways Cream Dressing, Roasted Pear, Walnuts and Goat Cheese Soufflé, Beef with Pasta of Couscous, Tiger Prawn Salad with Gazpacho

Aug. 16: Cheese We (all new)—Cheese and Liver Pate, Prawn Cheesecake, Goat Cheese and Prosciutto Salad with Pomegranate Dressing, Blue Cheese Chicken, Roasted Veal Chops with Cheese Risotto, Beer Lemon Curd Cheesecake.

For complete schedule and inquiries, call 926-7888, 0920-9271888, 6391162.



• Shangri-la Plaza Mall, Tel No. 635-5144 • Glorietta 3, Tel No. 887-4077 • Robinsons Place Manila, Tel No. 521-7778
• The Podium, Tel No. 633-9224 • The Gateway Mall, Tel No. 912-5726 • Robinsons Galleria, Tel No. 636-9020 • The Power Plant Mall, Tel No. 888-0902
• SM Mall of Asia, Tel No. 556-0478 • SM City Davao, Tel No. (082) 297-3092 • Ayala Center Cebu, Tel No. (032) 233-6363

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Ernesto C. Velarde

Macho Manay

By Nini Palero

THE TRANSFORMATION of Paolo Ballesteros from macho to manay for his role in Vivo Films' gay comedy "Bayani" begins with a two-hour makeup session with stylist Franzy Arnaiz.

"One of my concerns about the role was that I should look like a real woman instead of a guy-in-drag," Paolo said during his first session with Franzy. "Also, I asked her my many questions. To my surprise, they gave me the boss."

Franzy, 38, a no-stranger to the task, like almost three decades now, turns ordinary-looking women into become glamorous females in his hands because for his "no-makeup makeup," Franzy said he always uses his "works of art."

His artwork in Paolo is Cleopatra, cross-dresser to Rosanna Roces' Salacgay Sarangay in the movie.

When Franzy is done, Cleopatra—of the smoky eyes, full-closed lids and glamorous lips—emerges. She is a masterpiece.

"You know," Franzy told Paolo, "your role begins here. I've witnessed Tito Duterte art like a woman once before in

MALOU GO

'Kubrador' gets an 'A'

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE CINEMA EVALUATION BOARD (CEB) has given an "A" rating to "Kubrador"—a film that chronicles three days in the life of a teeming with heroin—strong "effortless storytelling" as one of the reasons for the distinction.

The Jeffrey Jetturian movie is the first film to be given an "A" rating this year, according to CEB chair Christine Tham.

"Kubrador" is technically sound first," Tham told Inquirer Entertainment over Tuesday. "The characterization is well-developed. Its director is well-motivated and very keen on details. It may be a social commentary on farming, but it is not preachy."

All-out support

The "A" rating entitles "Kubrador" to a 15th-percent amusement tax rebate. In an added incentive, the CEB will pay for Jetturian and lead actress Gina Pareño's trip to the 11th Pusan International Film Festival in Korea on Oct. 11-16.

The award-winning indie movie starts its metro theatrical run on Aug. 16

Dayrit said MLF Films, "Kubrador" producer, got its remittance from the CEB the $2,000 (and for the movie's subtitling and the P60,000 spent for promotion.

"Kubrador" is the first digital film to receive such support from the CEB," Dayrit pointed out. "We will also use the money with the Department of Tourism and the Philippine consulate in Korea to help promote the film there. We hope Filipinos in Korea would be able to watch it."

Jetturian said he is very thankful to the CEB, as "this will help my production in raising his investment."

Joji Alonso, executive producer, said her production team was "hoping for an 'A' rating, but didn't expect it."

She added: "It's hard to determine how people here would react to it. Although people in other countries liked the film, we're still not sure if the reaction here would be the same."

Only last month, "Kubrador" bagged four of the five major awards at the Osaka-Cinefan Festival of Asian Cinema in New Delhi, India. The movie won Best Film, Best Director for Jetturian and; Best Actress for Pareño, and Jeraquila Incorporated Production Federation of Film Unions (Ojinoc) Guild prize.

Last week, "Kubrador" received its 12th international film for invitation. It will be screened in the 22nd International Toronto Film Festival in Rimini, Turkey, Sept. 14-23.

Film market

The Pusan film fest will coincide

ALMAZAN 08

STUDENTS of The Middle Class School of Ballet

Marvin's twins are 'opposites'

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

NO MATTER HOW BIG MARVIN Agustin's name has grown in the biz, it's good to know that he has not outgrown our friendship. Even if we haven't seen each other for quite some time—considering of how it's announcement.

Radio Star Quinto, her leading lady in Century Films' "Oh My Ghost," shares the same sentiment. They are reunited on screen after four years.

"Inspired Nostalgia" is the title of Marvin's Dreamscape Kwentong Kutob episode. Directed by Mario Quinto, the story revolves around two pairs who are "opposites."

Bella and Marvin almost became lovers after the split up with Shalla Vizcaya, despite their measured tolerance, they have developed a camaraderie that you get to good use in this new movie where they play husband and wife. But sending them to real life is the farthest thing from Marvin's mind. He believes he is focusing on God.

"My sons are turning six on Aug 15. Kinabukasan kahit tumuwad, they are up-grades. Sobrang-in-over sensible. Sometimes explosive. I will allow them to join dance like if they want to but I want them to balance their academics. I still consider God first to finish college so I'll be a good example to them. I'm lucky that their mom Ee is pre-school teacher who's the main caller that's why I understand-ing. She's are preparing me to get married. There will be a proper time for that."

But as far as his career is concerned, Marvin's time has come. Aside from Kwentong Kutob, he has recently released his new album

Just asking

• Could it be true that Sharp Musmone got poured in the pool because his 27 Christmas Cadbeau told him that it's a reunion for the always-has-been to turn 40? Maybe she said that it's just his secret plan (still secret? Did that trigger their infamous brawl in Boracay? This was long ago, it was Alicia Mayer who caused a commotion. In the same club. Whatever happened to go-round that the name of the fat contender? Or are they getting one man for trouble-three?

• I'm hesitant Mercado becomes so allergic in intrigue? Acidhopo-went to her house for an interview but she refused to come out of her room. She-owls turned hysterical! Perhaps she was just having a bad day. By now, Jen ought to know that intrigues are an occupational hazard. It's a given, so every one just go-by happy lang.

• After the big item about the print ad of Jericho's love child Santino some ex, I got swamped with e-mail. Readers-fans like Jericho has another kid and it's unfair that he only acknowledges Santino. Ano, dun, dun call for a paternity or poly-graph test?

• Dawn who this universal-host is while living her gown, the costume asked where is the her zipper-on. He wanted it for the right measurements. She flared up: "Si ko manunulo? Baka me-threatening you?" He snapped back: "Im-me a mannequin. I'm a designer!" Then he walked out. A dramatic exit indeed. Dawn left the dinner-gowns pinned who were also having their gowns fitted.

Nostalgic mood

I had such a delightful afternoon watching the opening performances of the students of The Dolly Cruz School of Ballet, 11227 Quezon Ave., #2 (0304-), I put me in a nostalgic mood. I remem-bered my years who used to be a ballet teacher) before she joined showbiz. I was one of her students. Maybe that's why I somehow-have-grace... under pressure.

The ballet students bagged five per-pound trophies, 16 gold medals, 28 gold, nine silver and eight bronze ribbons at the Asia-Pacific Dance Competition held in Singapore last July 21 and 23. The dancers were in all categories—Classical, Neo-Classical, Demi Character, Neoclassical, folk and Modern Contemporary. The Philippine delegation was headed by multi-awarded artiste-director Marissa Emith-Cruz.

For feedback, e-mail mareng@pdi.dimagat@yahoo.com

The impressive

Advance Miracle Whitening System

Ellen's

CAKE DECORATING; SAUSAGE MAKING; COOKING & BAKING LESSONS

Sylvia Reynoso-Gala

ERNEST REYNOSO GALA

Morella Reynoso Gala

Panasonic

Century

HCAR

'Impossible' dreams come true

LAST July 23, PR ATTENDED TWO special Academic Convocations at the Ateneo de Manila University as guests of Imelda ng Lakas sandwiches Laurice Guillen and Marilou Diaz-Abaya. It was raining cats and lizards, but we sallied forth to honor our renowned film colleagues and friends.

We fully expected Laurice and Marilou to rise to the august occasion and come up with memorable responses after they were given their awards—and that's exactly what they did.

But the real memorable event turned out to be much more than that. Because it introduced us to other awardees who have dedicated their lives to serving God and country in different fields—Br. Teofilo Bongcawil, Elvira Lopez-Bautista, Fr. Efren Hernandez, Br. Gonzalo Bayrit and Socorro Ramos, and the relatives of posthumous awardees themselves: Pantaleon Luis and Fr. Cirilino Cobcobero.

Father Cobcobero died in 2004 while rescuing people stranded in Infanta, Quezon, at the height of typhoon Winnie.

Pantaleon Luis, who saved many lives by warning them about the imminent explosion of Mt. Pinatubo. We were moved when his son shared personal anecdotes that underscored Pantaleon's selflessness and dedication.

We also appreciated Father Miranda's commitment to the poor in prisons, and Lopez-Bautista's dedication to the use of television to help enhance children all over the country.

Doctor Barayuyo showed the ways to scholastic effort to help the disadvantaged, by providing out-reach houses like the livelihood, education and spiritual and value formation.

The most unique awardee, Doctor Bayrit, wove his many achievements lightly on his shoulders, and shunned the media-event with his humility and his aura. His colleagues regard him as a Renaissance man, because he has involved himself in a wide range of disciplines—conducting the promotion of cacao oil, herbal medicines, tuberculosis control, diabetes, homeopathy, anti-cancer, chiropractic, etc.

The final awardee, National Bookstore head Socorro Cancio-Ramos, disavowed the audience more of all when she shared that she was "only" a high school graduate, and that her lifelong dream was to finish college.

That "impossible" dream was realized beyond the hardworking lady's fondest expectations when the trustees conferred on her the degree of Doctor of Humanities, honoris causa.

The awardee's are at receiving the ultimate educational honor was infectious, and the audience showed her with gusto. It's wonderful when "impossible" dreams are realized in an emotionally triumphant fashion.

That's the way the special day went. It was memorable not only for the awardees, but also for us in the audience, because it inspired us to similarly live our lives for others, the itinerary was—and have a great time doing it.

Film quotes

Jeff Goldblum in "The Big Chill": Don't knock recreational drugs. Please would you be satisfied if I don't know anybody who can get through the day without two or three juicy recreational drugs. They're more important than sex—have you ever gone a week without a rationalization?

And Steiger in "Doctor Zhivago": There are two kinds of men, and for every man in one kind, there is a high-minded lie to part. He is the kind of man that the world prefers to look up to, but in fact despises. There is another kind, not high-minded, not pure—but direct

Hutchence biopic by 2 filmmakers

LOS ANGELES—INXS frontman Michael Hutchence, who died under mysterious circumstances in 1997, will be the subject of a new movie by two filmmakers who want to protect the Australian rocker's legacy, Hollywood media said Monday.

The project, "Slide Away," is being made by IMX video director Mich Egan and producer Chris Weissman, the Hollywood Reporter said.

The charismatic Hutchence was found dead in November 1997 in a Sydney hotel room, the apparent victim either of suicide or accidental death from asphyxiation, his death at 37 shocked fans across the globe.

Weissman said he decided on the project after the late rising to usually received by a television show meant to pick Hutchence's successor on INXS lead singer.

"This is not the memory of what we are after, and that's not the story of who the man is. What we are aiming for is the journey through a person's life via their head," Weissman told the Hollywood Reporter.

The project's name comes from a pachinko slot that paired Hutchence with U2's Bono, the producers said.

Egan directed many of the videos from INXS' late 1980s and early 1990s heyday when the band dominated the charts with tracks like "Suicide Blonde," "Listen Like Thieves" and "New Sensation."

The reassembled INXS, with new frontman JD Fortune, is Manila bound for a single-night gig Aug. 11 at the Araneta Coliseum. AFP

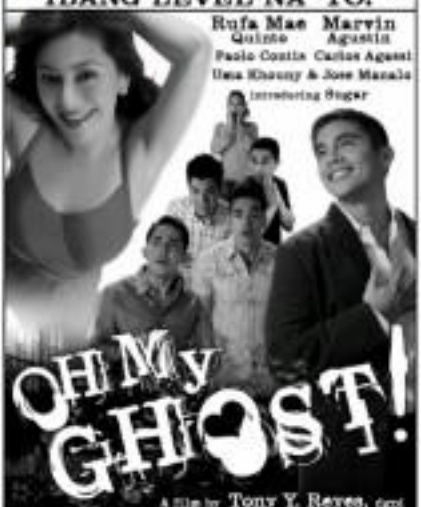
Winston Wings presents Parokya

ELBOW ROOM MANILA ITS first anniversary today with a Winston Wings Time promotion featuring Parokya ni Edgar. Guests have a chance to win prizes and exclusive freebies. Only those 18 and older will be allowed entry. ID may be requested as proof of age.

SHOW TIME

SI RUFA MAE SA KANYANG MAJOR GENERAL COMEDY MOVIE

IBANG LEVEL NA 'TO!



Rufa Mae Quinto Marvin Agustin

Paolo Contis Carlos Agassi

Una Khanny & Jose Manalo

introducing Sugar

OH My GHOST!

A film by Tony Y. Reyes, dgpi

IN THEATERS AUGUST 16, 2006

FEEDBACK

RP teachers in America

From Edna Cole (edtopia@one.net):

Dear Sir, Salam Sapalo,

I read your article on the film Eamona that is doing. It touched me so much, having been a school administrator in the Philippines and now, as a public school here in the US.

I married an American and fortunately landed the same job I had in the Philippines.

I also know some Filipino teachers who were part of the exodus to Maryland. I know how they feel, can identify with them and am very proud of what they are doing.

We Filipino teachers are the best teachers ever, we care, We work very hard. Our understanding, compassion and love for teaching make us stand out.

Even the most disrespectful students here learn to respect Filipino teachers for their hard work and how we value them. They know we see the potential in everyone, and that we care for them as much, are the not allow their misbehavior to jeopardize their learning.

The schools here in the US are better served because of us, Filipino teachers.

About time

I also read a newspaper article that the government is set to increase the salaries of doctors, nurses and teachers. I must say it's about time, so we least teachers will have to leave our country. The salary is good here, no doubt, but there's no place like home. Most of us are here so we can send money back to help our families—not because we want to leave our country.

"MIAMI VICE" TRIVIA PROMO

Answer the "Miami Vice" trivia questions in our daily moviequide. Cut and drop entries at any Robinsons Movieworld branch on or before August 16. Winners will get any of the following:

- Cinema Plaza Galleria Manila Gift Certificate
- Gift packs from Solar-UFC
- Robinsons Gift Certificate

*winners will be notified via registered mail only

now showing at ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

MIAMI VICE

OPENS AUGUST 16

THE SEQUEL TO THE NO.1 U.S. BOX-OFFICE HIT

ERICA DURANCE

ERIC LIVELY

HOW FAR WOULD YOU GO TO BRING HER BACK FROM THE DEAD?

THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2

ARANETA CENTER

GateBay MALL FarmersPlaza

Araneta Center

GET A CHANCE TO WIN TICKETS

INXS

SWITCH ON MANILA TOUR with MIG AYESA

EVERY P1,000 PURCHASE AT ARANETA CENTER GETS YOU MORE CHANCES!

AUGUST 6-11, 2006

BEFORE & AFTER THE CONCERT ON AGUST 15, DINE AT OVER 200 FOOD OUTLETS AROUND THE CENTER

CUBAO EXPO HOTEL

MALL 5

FOXTROT — BY BILL AMEND

A. LIPIN — BY ED ABERIN

BABY BLUES — By JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY — BY PH JUNIOR

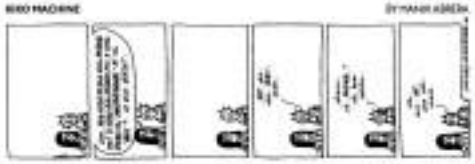
NUTTS — BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

ADVENTURE — BY ELIZABETH CHERRILLO

ATOMO AND WEEBOY — BY LYRA GARCELLANO

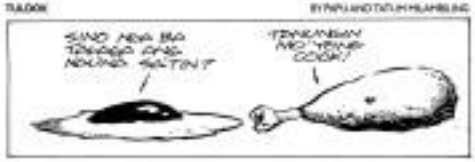
DIVINE COMEDY — BY STEVEN PAULSEN

BIRD MACHINE — BY MANIK ABERIN



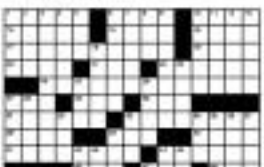
MANOBOSHOE — BY JOHNS TUDIO

TULOOK — BY PAPLANO TATUM MILAMBILING



BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1 Beep's mate
6 Kuwait's coin
10 Ogle
14 Desert cave dwe
15 Gym
16 Pastor Nielsen
17 Start of Stravin
18 Angry looks
19 Like a wizard's
20 Cabbage variety
21 Chile produce
22 Kind of glacier
24 Part 2 of age
25 Cage shelf
29 ___ warm-up
30 Old Testam
31 Drop soaking
32 Preliminary calculation
35 Author of "Gentleman Prefer Blondes"
37 Part 1 of age
40 Mixed-ups
41 First or last
42 Part 3 of age
44 Drivers of mine
46 Snugly cut
47 Singer Jasmine ___ Dollars
48 Volcanic period
49 Part 4 of age
53 Office-park hangouts
55 Actor Mineo
57 Island wreaths
58 Sings
59 Tear of rage
64 Coastal bird
65 Ancestral chain
66 Come to terms
67 Type of bath
68 Mimi
69 Pens

DOWN
1 Bar procedure
2 Words in Lennon's lullabies
3 Folded data
4 Overwhelming opens
5 Miner's shelf
6 Sandy ground breakers
7 Lacking
8 Take back
9 Word of assent
10 Feet of Pooh
11 Willie Chan
12 Utopia
13 Salt lacks
21 Metallic color
23 Ceremonial medley
26 ___ to do
27 Lip-to-ear connection
28 Mix much longer
32 Pledge drive
33 Philip Morrison
34 ___ Ivy cocktail
36 Ben Gillen's mother
38 Cake layer
39 "Lemonade" kids
40 Take the stage
42 First name in long singing
43 Tonal
44 Name
45 College chant
46 Food formula
49 Small ophidians
50 Sea mate
51 Adolescents
52 Monaco illustration
53 Organic compound
54 " ___ Willow in a Country Churchyard"
56 Fended
57 Symbol of the spectator
62 Sing along syllable
63 Spoiled

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

HOROSCOPE

THIS BORN TODAY You're attractive, talkative and alluring. People want to be in your company, and you're not afraid to do something you think is right even if it's unpopular. You have high standards of excellency, and you like to be appreciated. However, despite your popularity, you're a very private person. The year ahead could bring you a romantic relationship that's kept under wraps. Birthdate of: Herbert Hoover, The 100 presidents, Antonio Banderas, actor Rosanna Arquette, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Partners might have a hard time understanding your choices right now. Avoid fighting and check in with them frequently. Spend time with your family, as well, and avoid home. Romantic encounters and long-distance travel are highly likely.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Discussions with parents and authority figures may be tense. Keep your composure and be the first to apologize, if necessary. Creative pursuits are favored. Make sure you're on the computer.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You may have a hard time getting your point across. Be careful with your words. You're a strong, no, if possible kind of person. The possibility of death is very strong.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Time alone with your partner is good. Don't let money battles ruin the mood. Your partner may have a hard time with money, too. Work out a budget. Some kind of financial commitment could have you feeling daunting.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Relations with partners and close friends are favored. Don't let money battles ruin the mood. You're not sure who you can trust. If you feel this way, say nothing and be cautious.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Someone might say something that you don't like. Don't let yourself fly off the handle. Take the high road. Your opinions, theories, and ideas that balances. Business dinners a great place to network. Don't be afraid to ask for what you want.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) If you feel like you're in a rut, it's time to change things up. Try something new. Get out of the usual routine, you might find some new and exciting possibilities. Stay alert.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Put your energy into your career. Be sure to follow orders willingly to avoid unnecessary battles. Don't let your emotions get the best of you. Be willing to compromise, and you'll be successful.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You're overly excited today. Don't let your emotions get the best of you. Be calm and collected. Stay in control of yourself and understanding others. Don't act.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) This is a good day to make changes. Be open to new ideas. Don't be afraid to show shared compassion. Be sure everything you do is for everything you do! Share all the details with your partner. You might not have who you can trust.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Avoid conflict. Be sure to be patient, compromising with partners and friends. Don't be afraid to ask for what you want. It may be difficult to embrace confidence in others. In fact, doubt could be your greatest enemy today.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Double-check all your work today. You might not want to get a second opinion if you're unsure of what you're doing. Your confidence makes an excellent factor!

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — by Dave Green

	8		3		1	
9						8
		6		9		
2		1			7	3
3		6			2	5
			5	6		
7						6
	9		1		4	

Difficulty Level ★★★

© 2010 Conceptis Puzzles, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answers to previous puzzle

4	7	2	9	8	1	3	5	6
8	5	9	7	6	3	4	1	2
6	3	1	4	5	2	8	7	9
7	8	3	6	2	4	1	9	5
1	9	6	5	3	8	2	4	7
2	4	5	1	9	7	6	8	3
9	6	8	2	4	5	7	3	1
3	2	7	8	1	9	5	6	4
5	1	4	3	7	6	9	2	8

Medium ★★★

Macho Manay

Front page D1

hasn't the camera on."

The coaching continued as Nancy set Paolo's shoulders in a perfect pose.

"Your left shoulder should always be slanted forward," he said. "Look down in a half-smile."

Pthewiqmo, Chaconsider slanted a red shirt embroidered with tiny rose buds for the shoot.

"I feel comfortable in these clothes," Paolo said. becomes Enrique's latest dazzling scheming hunk.

It is not his first gay character, after all, he has made about 30 movies throughout a show his career that started in childhood.

"I played a closet queen in 'Sisa,' a Sgayan' directed by Marilou Diaz-Abaya, 2001," he said.

He continued that he never aspired to be a macho-hot idol, despite his good looks from a mixed parentage (Chinese father, Iranian mother).

"Matinee idols fade away," Paolo mused, "but actors live forever."

DAWIT: "Excellent."

JETURIAN: happy for producer

ALONSO: "We didn't expect this."

'Kuberador'

Front page D1

with the 1st Asian Film Market, also in Korea, where a Philippine delegation is set to attend. Director Joyce Bernal, Orbi Santiago, Ray Mabaleo, and TV director Tony Gloria. Vincent del Rosario, Lily Monteverde, Tilary Aguilar have all agreed to participate, said Dayrit.

Dayrit added that the $1,700 needed for the use of a 40 sq.m. booth at the film market will be shouldered by the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP). "We will also produce a brochure and a video wherein all the films we will sell in the event will be listed," said Dayrit, who is also the FDCP vice chair.

Starting Aug. 16, "Kuberador" will be shown in theaters at SM Mall of Asia, Cubao 1, Market Market, SM Megamall, Gateway Mall Cubao, Robinson's Ermita and Cinerama Recto.

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA

1 LADY IN THE WATER • THE
2 CLICK
3 FIERCE PEOPLE
4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
5 STORMBREAKER
6 MIAMI VICE
7 JUST MY LUCK
8 SUKOB
9 THE ANT BULLY
10 THE BREAK-UP

ERMITA

1 CLICK
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
3 THE ANT BULLY
4 MIAMI VICE
5 STORMBREAKER
6 FIERCE PEOPLE
7 SUKOB

METRO EAST

1 JUST MY LUCK
2 CLICK
3 STORMBREAKER
4 THE ANT BULLY
5 THE BREAK-UP
6 MIAMI VICE
7 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
8 SUKOB

NOVALICHES

1 THE ANT BULLY
2 SUKOB
3 CLICK
4 MIAMI VICE

CITYSQUARE MALABON / PIONEER

1 SUKOB
2 CLICK
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE
1 CLICK
2 STORMBREAKER
3 MIAMI VICE
4 SUKOB

"MIAMI VICE" TRIVIA PROMO

Kindly answer all questions completely. Fill in the ordering details to complete the right answer.

1. The creator of the Miami Vice TV Series.
M _ _ _ _ L _ M _ _ _

2. Where the city of Sonny Crockett in the Miami Vice movie.
_ _ L _ M _ V _ _ _ _ _

3. Jamie Foxx plays this character in the movie.
_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

4. In the TV Series, who played the part of Castro (the woman Sonny Crockett married)?
_ _ _ _ _ M _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

5. Where is or what UK Base?
_ _ _ _ _ _

Winners will get one of the 4:
- Loose Fruit Sunrise Blend Gift Certificate
- Gift Packs from Jollibee
- Movie passes for Robinsons Galleria
- Winners will be called via registered mail only

NAME:
ADDRESS:
CONTACT NO.:
SIGNATURE:

Fill out and drop this entry at any Robinsons Merchandise Promo Booth or at Jollibee Alabang Town Center

MIAMI VICE
is NOW SHOWING at Robinsons Movieworld

STA. ROSA / LIPA

1 CLICK
2 CHAOS
3 LOVE WRECKED
4 SUKOB
1 CLICK
2 SUKOB
3 CHAOS
4 LOVE WRECKED

DASMARINAS / ANGELES

1 CLICK
2 THE ANT BULLY
3 SUKOB
4 THE BREAK-UP
1 CLICK
2 WILD ORCHID 2
3 JUST MY LUCK
4 SUKOB

IMUS / STARMILLS

1 CLICK
2 SUKOB
3 WOLF CREEK
4 THE BREAK-UP
1 TAMARA
2 WOLF CREEK
3 JUST MY LUCK
4 SUKOB
5 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
6 CLICK

BACOLOD / ILOILO

1 CLICK
2 SUKOB
3 THE ANT BULLY
4 WILD ORCHID 2
5 WOLF CREEK
6 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
1 CLICK
2 SUKOB
3 THE ANT BULLY
4 LADY IN THE WATER

The Perfect Gift All Year Round

A Pre-Paid Movie Pass for the Hottest Seats in town.

Get special discounts for volume purchases!

SM CINEMA movietime SHOWTIME Your life as a movie

movietime EXCLUSIVE

Watch Ryan Agoncillo in this modern day love story proving that love indeed, truly has its mysterious ways.

umaaraw, umuulan

Starring Ryan Agoncillo, Precious Lara Quigaman and Herbert Bautista

A story by Lualy Santiago and Adolf Alix Jr. Directed by Richard Arellano

NOW SHOWING EXCLUSIVELY AT SM CINEMA

Cebu, Clark, Davao, Fairview
Mall of Asia, Manila, Megamall, North EDSA
Pampanga, Southmall, Sta. Mesa

METRO MANILA

IMAX
ANT BULLY
CLICK
SUPERMAN RETURNS
SUKOB
DIRECTOR'S CUT
CLICK
CENTERSTAGE
RESERVED
FIERCE PEOPLE
CLICK
MIAMI VICE
ANT BULLY
UMAARAW, UMULAN
STORMBREAKER
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
CLICK
STORMBREAKER
MIAMI VICE
ANT BULLY
SUKOB
WHITE LADY
JUST MY LUCK
SUPERMAN RETURNS
CLICK
STORMBREAKER
ANT BULLY
SUKOB
THE BREAK-UP
JUST MY LUCK
UMAARAW, UMULAN
WHITE LADY
SUPERMAN RETURNS
CLICK
STORMBREAKER
MIAMI VICE
JUST MY LUCK
SUKOB
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
MIAMI VICE
CLICK
STORMBREAKER
SUKOB
CHAOS
ANT BULLY
CLICK
ANT BULLY
SUKOB
THE BREAK-UP
MIAMI VICE
STORMBREAKER
SUKOB
CLICK

EVENT CALENDAR SHOWTIME EVENT CALENDAR

the APO experience

September 2, 2006
Saturday • 8:30 pm

Tickets at P800 • P1,100 • P1,320

MALL OF ASIA

Tickets available at TICKETWORLD 891-9999 891-9999

ANT BULLY
CLICK
TAKE THE LEAD
SUKOB
LOVEWRECKED
SUKOB
THE BREAK-UP
CLICK
Fantasia
THE BREAK-UP
STORMBREAKER
MIAMI VICE
CLICK
SUKOB
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
ANT BULLY
CLICK
JUST MY LUCK
ANT BULLY
TAMARA
UMAARAW, UMULAN
SUKOB
CLICK
ANT BULLY
TAMARA
SUKOB
LOVEWRECKED
TAMARA
CLICK
SUKOB

LUCENA

CLICK
JUST MY LUCK
TAKE THE LEAD
SUKOB
LOVEWRECKED
SUKOB
CHAOS
AMERICAN SOLDIERS
THE RUN
ANT BULLY
SUKOB
UMAARAW, UMULAN
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
JUST MY LUCK
CLICK
UMAARAW, UMULAN
SUKOB
AMERICAN HAUNTING
JUST MY LUCK
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
AMERICAN HAUNTING
SUKOB
JUST MY LUCK
CLICK

SOUTH LUZON

EVIL DEAD
CLICK
THE BREAK-UP
JUST MY LUCK
UMAARAW, UMULAN
TAMARA
SUKOB
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
LADY IN THE WATER
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
SUKOB
ANT BULLY
CLICK
RESERVED
RESERVED
NACHO LIBRE

SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 2006

ENTERTAINMENT

Bakekang, Lastikman, Pedro Penduko & company

YOUNG SHIRAZED WILL PLAY THE lead in MIO-CBN's forthcoming "Lastikman" series. Its GMA-7's "Sakdalang," it's a team-up between Angel Locsin and Aljur Mugtangal (with Stanislaw Bitoon as dark horse). ABS-CBN is also doing "Pedro Penduko," possibly with ... Warren Paparoti? Studios haven't all those yesterday.

At vacation of intent fans and winemakers, we could be fanfest but not looking back, anyway? In fact, it seems to be the one thing we're interested, by good or ill.

Pinky-Claudine soap

Done deal: Pinky Amador and Claudine Barretto are doing a Kapamilya soap, for which they will shoot abroad, most probably in Australia.

Bases covered

Dape Fernandez, on her "darling" 18-bit song about plans: "I would be clear that I wouldn't do anything that would bother Lorna Tolentino and Kuh-L, or put me in a bad light [in their eyes]." Presumably, the boys understood.

Filmmaker babe

Speaking of cover girls, Bianca Gonzalez says in Cosmopolitan that if she weren't an actress, she would be a filmmaker like some draw by being a filmmaker's girlfriend. At once.

Time out

Celebs took time out to take their children to the movies special screening of "The Ant Bully" in IE's at the San Miguel Corp. Cola Mini Theater at the SM Mall of Asia. Spotted were Michael V and his kids, and Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski with her little ones.

Sri Lanka gig

Monique Wilson, fresh from her success as the star of Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Sunset of Love" in Singapore," is set to perform in a Charity concert at the Cinnamon Grand Hotel in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on Oct. 24. Joining her as special guests are 10-year-old singer Julia Montes and sexy Filipina 2000 Josephine Ochoa and the cyber-endorsed Blanche beauty products, specifically the Skin Whitening Cream. Oh, that's why Daisy looks so much fairer than we remember!

Whos who's 50

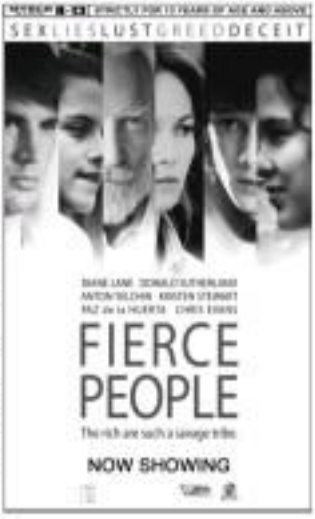
NEW YORK—Janet Jackson has never been afraid to expose some skin.

The 40-year-old singer, randy media after baring some of it onstage, appears on the cover of Vibe magazine wearing a skimpy bikini bottom and a necklace made of large shells. Her right arm covers her breasts.

Will she ever stop posing for sexy photos? "Of course. When I'm 80," she tells Vibe. AP

Her whole life

Tessa Thomson, on her role in "My Super Ex-Girlfriend": "I've been trying to bust into comedy business my whole life."



ROUNDUP

Asean film fest

TO CELEBRATE THE 39TH ANNIVERSARY OF the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and the Office of the Asean Affairs of the Department of Foreign Affairs have organized the 2006 Asean Film Festival.

The public is treated to the free, which opens today at Cinema 2 of The Podium in Mandaluyong City, with "Standing Still/Aida ng Yung Isda's Fractured," a collection of short films directed by Raya Martin.

Other flicks to be screened are: "Ballad of Mustang's Widow," "Silhouette/Ad Astra at Iwan dela Cruz," "Sichuan," "Sahara" and "Malaysian Wicker" from the Philippines; "The Lessons of Life" from Lao People's Democratic Republic, "The Bandship of Sand," "The Lovers on Sea Waves" and "The Trumpet" from Vietnam; "Gie" from Indonesia; "Spam Steak" and "Bookmark It" from Malaysia; "The Overcast" from Thailand; "Stain Remover" from Cambodia; "The Caring Sing" from Brunei Darussalam; and "Singapore Saga" from Singapore.

Call 527-2207 for the schedule. The festivities end Aug. 13.

Festival of sounds

Mercury Radio 88.9/5.1 hosts "Festival of Sounds," featuring popular OPM bands and artists in party venues across the metropolis.

Acoustic and mainstream pop music take center stage on Aug. 12, with the party designed for call-center professionals.

A celebrity-filled happening at Capitol's on Aug. 25, with 98 Hole Runners and their friends claiming the privilege to an exclusive meet-and-greet with the 80 family and the hottest DJ/Divas.

On the "80 Concert Series" this month, performing live from the studios are Imago on Aug. 14, Cueshe on Aug. 21 and Pupil and Sandhu Arnaiz on Aug. 28.

'Mom At Sixteen'

"Mom At Sixteen," a thought-provoking saga for parents and teens who have to deal with the harsh complications and miracles of unexpected pregnancy premieres on Lifechannel on Aug. 20, 9 p.m., encore on Aug. 21, 3 p.m.

Sex-related and promising athlete Jacey Jeffries (Danielle Panabaker) discovers that pregnancy changes any woman who becomes a mother at a tender age.

Stirred by her overbearing and recently divorced mother Terry (Mercedes Ruehl), the 16-year-old keeps her giving birth a secret and unwillingly agrees that her baby, Charlie, be adopted by Terry. The family-first movie is a new twist to usual ones.

FAIRLY ODD PARENTS

New season

NICKELODEON HAS lined up new episodes for its shows this month.

"The Upside Down Show" with the Original Incubus airs tomorrow, 7:30 a.m., beginning Aug. 12.

"Fairly Odd Parents," about 10-year-old Timmy and his fairy godsitters, plays Aug. 25, 7 p.m.

"Kid" band's imaginary world airs Aug. 21 at 12 noon.